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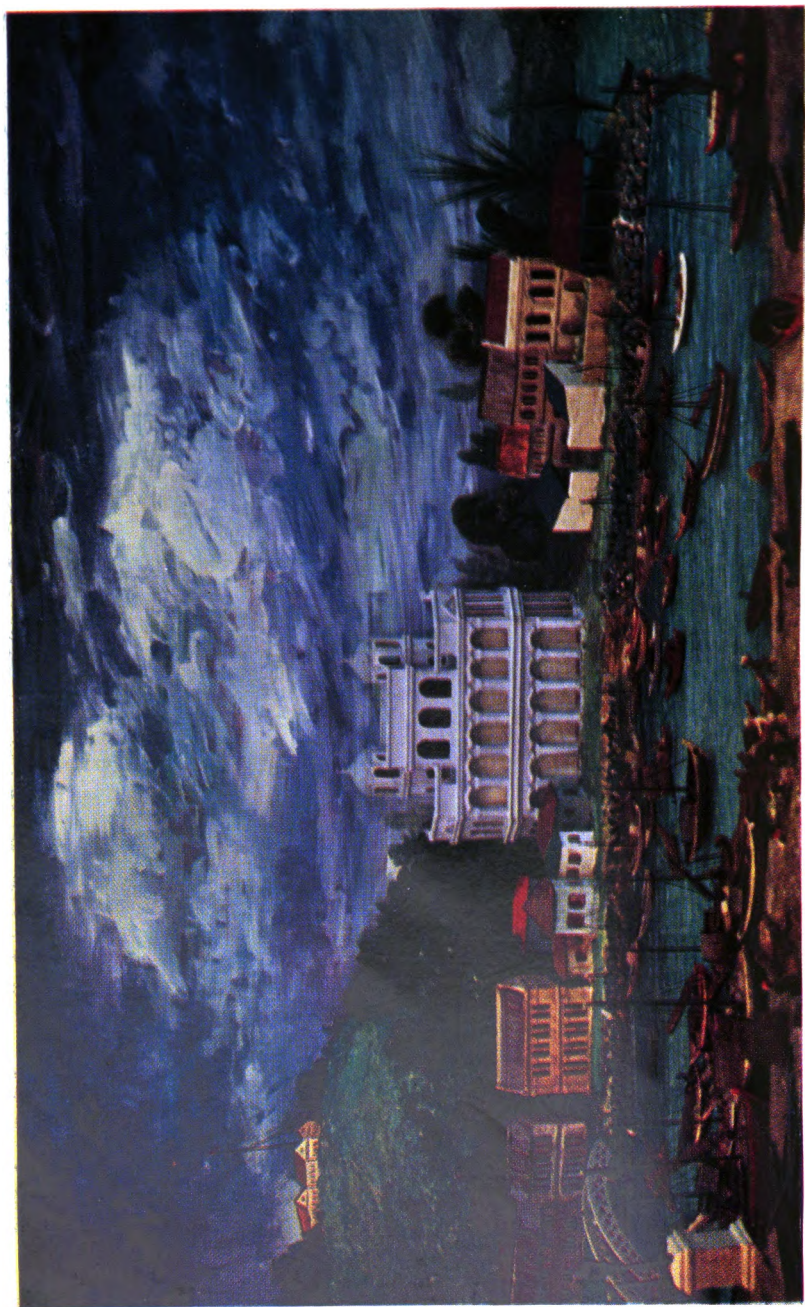
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**COLONY OF SINGAPORE
ANNUAL REPORT 1955**



Singapore River and Fort Canning, 1848

COLONY OF SINGAPORE ANNUAL REPORT 1955



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CONTENTS

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I GENERAL REVIEW	1
II POPULATION	11
III OCCUPATIONS, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION .	23
IV PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION	43
V CURRENCY AND BANKING	70
VI TRADE	75
VII PRODUCTION	85
VIII PLANNING AND HOUSING	100
IX EDUCATION	106
X HEALTH	119
XI WELFARE SERVICES	134
XII LEGISLATION	145
XIII LAW AND ORDER	152
XIV PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS	170
XV COMMUNICATIONS	183
XVI PRESS, INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, FILMS .	216
XVII DEFENCE	229
XVIII CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION	247
XIX THE ARTS	257
XX SPORT	265
XXI PHYSICAL FEATURES AND NATURAL HISTORY .	270
XXII HISTORY OF SINGAPORE	284
BIBLIOGRAPHY	292
INDEX	299

ILLUSTRATIONS

	<i>Page</i>
SINGAPORE RIVER AND FORT CANNING, 1848	<i>frontispiece</i>
FIRST COUNCIL OF MINISTERS: THE CHIEF MINISTERS OF SINGAPORE AND THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA	<i>facing</i> 2
POLLING STAFF	" 3
DISTINGUISHED VISITORS	<i>between</i> 4-5
SECONDARY INDUSTRIES	" 96-7
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUILDING PROJECTS	<i>facing</i> 102
CITY COUNCIL NEW RESERVOIR	" 103
SCHOOL CONCERT	" 114
A YOUNG VIOLINIST	" 115
EQUIPMENT USED IN THE SMUGGLING OF OPIUM	" 162
CIVIL DEFENCE EXERCISES: SECRETARY OF STATE INSPECTING PARADE OF WOMEN POLICE	" 163
MODEL OF SINGAPORE AIRPORT	" 198
TWO INTERESTING CHARACTERS	" 199
ASSORTMENT IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE	" 212
TRADE EXHIBITION: COLOMBO PLAN CONFERENCE	" 213
CHINESE AND INDIAN BEAUTIES	" 226
AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT SECOND SOUTH-EAST ASIA FILM FESTIVAL: HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR JOHN NICOLL WITH SOME PHILIPPINO AND JAPANESE FILM STARS	" 227
MEMBERS OF THE SINGAPORE SECTION OF THE MALAYAN AUXILIARY AIR FORCE	" 234
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN: ROYAL MALAYAN NAVY	" 235
FIRST SINGAPORE SPEAKER TAKING THE OATH	" 248
THE SPEAKER: THE CHIEF MINISTER	" 249
SPORT	" 266
ESPLANADE AND PRINCESS ELIZABETH WALK	" 267

GRAPHS

	<i>Page</i>
GROWTH OF THE POPULATION	<i>facing</i> 12
AGE OF THE POPULATION	„ 13
FLUCTUATIONS IN TRADE	„ 82
FOREIGN TRADE BY COMMODITIES	<i>between</i> 82-3
FOREIGN TRADE BY COUNTRIES	<i>facing</i> 83

MAP

SINGAPORE	<i>Cst. MAP collection</i> <i>appended</i>
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I

GENERAL REVIEW

THE YEAR 1955 was one of dramatic change for the people of Singapore from the traditional Colonial system of administration to the threshold of internal self-government. The new constitution which came into operation after the elections on 1st April marked the end of the years of apprenticeship in self-government and new leaders popularly elected faced the basic economic, social and cultural problems of Singapore. The hopes and ambitions stimulated by the new form of government made for the presentation of these problems in a more acute and insistent form, which gave to subversive elements an opportunity of pursuing their long-established aims under the guise of satisfying legitimate aspirations legitimately expressed. The events of the year were to belie some of the assumptions on which the new constitution had been based, but it was a year in which the new political ways were learned through hard, first-hand experience, and adapted in practice. The dangers of the failure or misuse of the new freedoms were seen in the readiness of some to adopt unparliamentary methods of violence or the threat of violence; while the forces of stability in all classes and communities were tested in practice and mobilised behind the newly elected government on essential issues which threatened the good order of the community. Meanwhile, the rate of progress in the improvement of the standard of living and of the social services in the community was maintained.

The last meeting of the Legislative Council, which marked the end of the chapter of apprenticeship, was held on 28th January in the new Chamber designed for the successor Assembly. At that meeting a motion in favour of multi-lingualism was defeated, and the renewal of the Emergency Regulations for another three months was attached. Both were to become dominant issues in the election campaign. In his speech of dissolution, the Governor (Sir John Nicoll, K.C.M.G.) said: "The Constitution whose life is now drawing to a close has been, as it were, an apprenticeship—an

apprenticeship not only for the Council itself and the Colony's political leaders and the electorate, but no less for the Civil Service, which has been learning to adjust to a source of power which is no longer authoritarian; and I would even say an apprenticeship for those outside Government and outside the Council who make it their business to report and comment, especially the Press; in fact an apprenticeship for all who have a role to play in the processes of democracy."

The dominant concern for the first three months of the year was the preparation for the new constitution. The Order in Council which gave legal definition to the constitution based largely on the recommendations of the Report of the Rendel Commission was laid before both Houses of Parliament in London on 5th February and became effective on 8th February. The electoral registers for the 25 new one-member constituencies were published, and the electoral machinery prepared. The Speaker-Designate, Mr. G. E. N. Oehlers, O.B.E. who had spent three months in preparation in the House of Commons, was appointed Speaker on 1st April. The administrative machinery was adjusted to suit the new ministerial system and end the concentration of responsibility for administration in the Chief Secretary. The Legislative Council was dissolved on 5th February and Writs of Election for the Legislative Assembly were issued on 8th February. Nomination day was 28th February and Election Day fell on 2nd April.

The election was keenly and cleanly contested. Seventy-nine persons, including two women, were nominated. Sixty-nine belong to six political parties (all but one fighting an election for the first time) and 10 were Independents. There were no uncontested seats, and in only four constituencies were there only two candidates. In one constituency there were five candidates. Under the system of automatic registration based on the counterfoils of Identity Cards issued the electorate had increased from 75,000 to 300,299, while the proportion of women voters had increased from 12 to nearly 50 per cent. Although no previous publicity had been directed at the electors such as there would have been under a system of voluntary registration, their interest was roused by Press and Radio publicity, by public meetings and the intensive canvassing of candidates working on the experience of elections in Singapore since 1948, and by intensive official publicity emphasising the importance and the secrecy of the vote. Emergency Regulations were relaxed in application to allow full freedom of public meeting and speech during the campaign which passed off without any instance of disorder.



Public Relations.

Top—The first Council of Ministers under the new Constitution
Below—The Chief Ministers of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya
 with some of their Ministers at an informal luncheon





Elaborate publicity was given to polling procedure for several weeks preceding the election in April, 1955 at which over 160,000 persons recorded their votes. Picture shows Polling Station staff setting off to man their station

On Election Day, 2nd April, the election machinery for the 178 polling stations and the counting of the votes worked with smooth efficiency. There were no incidents during the day. The most interesting feature of the day was the extent to which women, new to the franchise, came to vote. They were estimated to be at least 50 per cent of those who went to the poll. 160,395 votes were cast, three times more than in any previous election and 53 per cent of the nominal poll; but allowing for the defects of a register based on an identity card system, dependent on the individual to report changes of address or departure from the Colony, it is estimated that 65 per cent of the effective register went to the poll. The percentage of voting in constituencies varied from 69 to 40 per cent while only 1 per cent of the votes cast were spoilt votes.

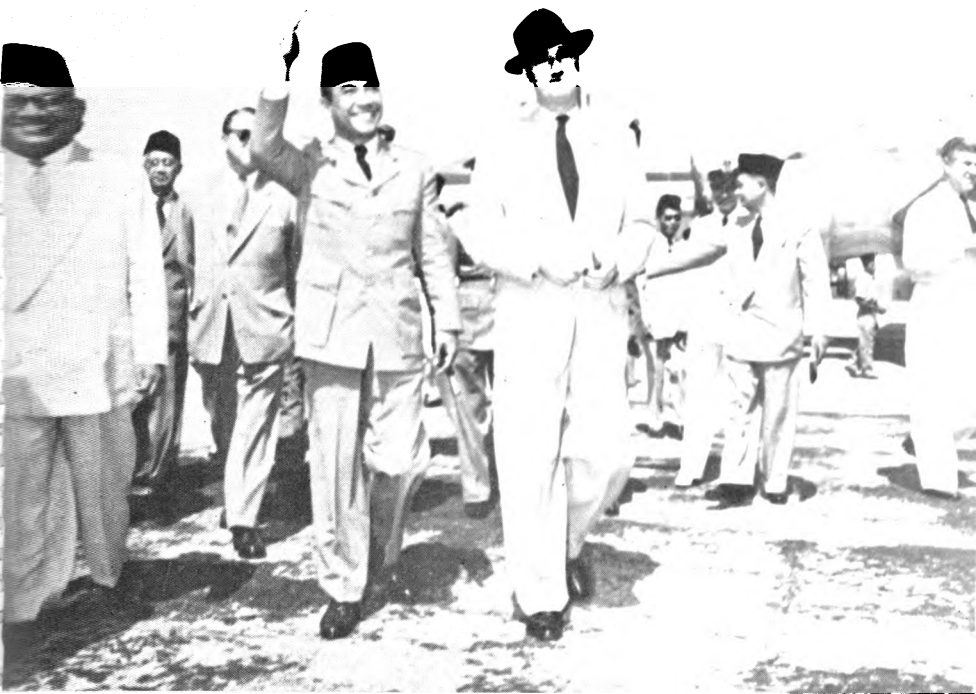
The election brought defeat to the Progressive Party which had played the chief role in the period of apprenticeship with its majority, over the previous seven years, on both the Legislative and City Councils. It was the focus of attack by all parties, including the new Democratic Party which represented the policies of the Chinese-speaking merchant community and which was later to merge with the Progressive Party to form one party. The largest number of seats was won by the Labour Front, an alliance of two former labour groups for the purpose of fighting the election. With a total of 42,300 votes the Front secured 10 seats. The Progressive Party with 38,695 votes had four representatives which included none of the members of the former Legislative Council. The Democrats with 32,115 votes won two constituencies. The 13,634 votes for the Peoples' Action Party won three seats, while the Alliance of the U.M.N.O. (the United Malay National Organisation), the M.C.A. (the Malayan Chinese Association) and the S.M.U. (the Singapore Malay Union) won three seats with a total vote of 13,157. Three Independents were returned. No women were returned.

On 5th April, Mr. David Marshall, the leader of the Labour Front, was invited to form a Government. He formed a coalition with the U.M.N.O.-M.C.A.-S.M.U. Alliance. The constitution required the Governor to nominate four members to the Assembly and two of these supported Mr. Marshall (one being appointed a Minister). These two nominated members with the three *ex officio* Ministers gave the Government a majority of 18 votes as against

14 on the Opposition benches. The remaining two nominated members did not sit on the Government side of the House. The Opposition was divided between three parties and two Independents. The new Government was sworn in on 7th April. To allow himself full scope in his appointment as Chief Minister, Mr. Marshall appointed as Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of which he himself held the portfolio. The unofficial Ministers and the Assistant Minister were drawn from six different communities reflecting the non-communal approach of the electorate. On 19th April, the Council of Ministers received a message of good wishes from the Federation Executive Council which expressed confidence that "as the two territories move forward, their paths will be drawn closer together by community of aims and interests, and will lead them to a closer co-ordination of outlook and approach to the common problems which will face both territories in the future." In its reply the Council "warmly welcome the desire for closer co-operation."

On 22nd April, the new Assembly had its formal opening when the Speaker and the new members took the oath of Allegiance. A message from H.M. the Queen expressed Her "great satisfaction at the significant advance in constitutional progress" and Her confidence that "those on whom the responsibility falls will carry it out with foresight, courage and honesty of purpose." A message from the Secretary of State for the Colonies expressed the confidence with which he looked to the Council of Ministers and the Assembly to "build and maintain a tradition of mature deliberation and of sound and impartial administration." The policy of Singapore's first elected Government was declared in the Address read by the Governor. It gave prominence to the "early attainment of complete internal self-government and union with the Federation of Malaya"; to relaxation immediately of the Emergency Regulations and their early replacement by legislation; to the fostering of "our great entrepôt trade"; to the "strengthening of the Economic Advisory services of the Government, including the appointment of an Economic Adviser"; to the detailed policy of Trade Union legislation and social services; and to the recognition of the "vital role of trade unionism in raising the standard of living and fostering the prosperity of the country".

As soon as it took office the new Government had the opportunity of establishing a number of personal contacts with members of the Governments of neighbouring Asian countries, as many



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN 1955

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Public Relations

Top—H.E. the President of Indonesia, Mr. Soekarno with H.E. the Governor
Below— H.E. Field Marshal and Madam Dikelenogram with the Commissioner-Gen.



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN 1955

Top—Sir Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary
 Below—Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox Boyd, and

delegates from Asia and Africa passed through Singapore on their way to the Afro-Asian Conference at Bandoeng. They included the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Ceylon, Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia and Prince Wan of Thailand, the Prime Minister of the Soudan, and the Minister of State from the Gold Coast. An unexpected visitor was Mr. Chou En-Lai, Foreign Minister for China, whose aircraft was forced to land by bad flying conditions. In June the Prime Minister of Thailand, Marshal Pibul Songgram, visited Singapore, followed by President Soekarno of Indonesia on his way to Mecca. In September the Chief Minister led a Goodwill Mission to Indonesia designed to seek the continued prosperity of Singapore and closer understanding with its neighbours in services to them as an Asian market place, and this visit was followed by a Cultural Trade Mission to Indonesia in October, led by Mr. J. M. Jumabhoy, Assistant Minister for Commerce and Industry, and in turn by a reciprocal fact-finding mission to Singapore in November.

The growth of Singapore in international stature was also illustrated in the successful meeting in October of the Seventh Consultative Committee on Economic Co-operation in South-East Asia. The Chief Minister presided over meetings at which 17 countries were represented, constituting the most important international conference ever held in Singapore.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, visited Singapore in August and September on his tour of the Far Eastern Territories, and (as mentioned later) opened the new International Airport at Paya Lebar.

In domestic affairs the two main political developments were the challenge of militant trade unionism to the new parliamentary machinery, and further demands for increased constitutional advance.

The challenge of the new trade unionism, closely associated with the People's Action Party in the Assembly, came violently within three weeks of the formal opening of the Assembly, and was to set the background of the first working session. The occasion was an industrial dispute in the Hock Lee Bus Company for which a Court of Inquiry was already sitting, and it developed into a challenge to the Government, the law and the police. A climax of violence planned for 1st May was avoided, but tension mounted again towards 13th May (the anniversary of a clash between students and the police in the previous year on the issue of

National Service). The strikers went beyond peaceful picketing in pursuit of their demands, and Chinese Middle School students in organised parties gave support with funds, food, inflammatory songs and speeches. After 18 days, the climax was reached in riots on the night of 12th May when 4 persons were killed and 19 injured. Two of the victims were members of the Police Force; one was beaten to death, and a member of the Volunteer Police was burned to death. An American journalist was killed by the mob. A Chinese youth was accidentally wounded when a police officer fired into the air in self-defence, and after being paraded round by the mob instead of being taken to hospital died as a result of his wounds. High praise was given after the riots to the courage, patience and discipline of the Regular and the Volunteer Police. The two largest Chinese Middle Schools were closed for one week as a result of the part played by the students, and were only allowed to re-open on the request of the All Party Committee which had been set up to consider the position in the Chinese schools that there should be no penal action in closing the schools or expelling the trouble-makers so that it could have the best possible atmosphere for its work. An undertaking was, however, sought that no meetings should be allowed in the schools.

Political coercion by the same group of trade unions was attempted in June when an ultimatum was given to the Government that if a trade dispute in the Singapore Harbour Board which had begun on 16th April was not settled within 48 hours, they would call a sympathy strike. The Government arrested seven trade union leaders believed to be responsible for this attempt at coercion, and a lightning general strike was called on 13th June but, thanks to the stability of moderate trade unions and the refusal of the general public to be intimidated even by lack of transport, the strike failed of its coercive purpose and was called off. The incident was a proof of the essential stability of the community. Four of the seven detained were subsequently released; one was convicted in court for the possession of Communist terrorist documents.

Shortly after these events the new Governor, Sir Robert Black, K.C.M.G., O.B.E. assumed office in succession to Sir John Nicoll, who had left Singapore on retirement at the beginning of June.

In constitutional matters the Chief Minister was anxious to establish a position approximating to that of the Prime Minister in a fully responsible Government and while his views had already

been partly met by the appointment of an Assistant Minister to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, of which he held the portfolio, in order to allow him to concentrate on the role of Chief Minister. Following a dispute with the Governor about the interpretation of the latter's powers under the new Constitution, arising out of a request for the appointment of four Assistant Ministers, a settlement was secured, after full discussion with the Secretary of State, by which the latter agreed to recommend the amendment of the Royal Instructions to relieve the Governor of certain discretionary powers under the Constitution in the exercise of which he was not required to accept the advice of the Chief Minister.

It was also indicated that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to welcome a representative delegation to consider the situation in the light of a year's working of the constitution, and in December the Chief Minister, together with the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Lim Yew Hock, and Inche Abdul Hamid bin Haji Jumat, the leader of the U.M.N.O.-M.C.A.-S.M.U. Alliance, went to London for preliminary discussions at which it was agreed that a constitutional conference should be held in April 1956 to consider an agenda covering:—

- (i) a definition of internal self-government;
- (ii) a date for the introduction of internal self-government;
- (iii) the Legislative Assembly;
- (iv) the future of the public service;
- (v) foreign relations and defence;
- (vi) any other business.

The future of the public service had already been brought under review by a Commission appointed to make recommendations for the staffing of the public service with Malayan officers. The Commission's sessions were held in public. The Commission was still in session at the end of the year.

On the security front the new Government allowed the state of Emergency, first proclaimed in July 1948 and successively extended at intervals of three months, to expire in October, but many of the essential provisions of the Emergency Regulations, which lapsed with the state of emergency, were re-enacted in substantive legislation of which the most notable measures were the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance, the Criminal Justice (Temporary) Provisions Ordinance and the Registration of Persons Ordinance. The

continued need for such legislation was illustrated by the continuance of Communist concentration on subversive activity aimed chiefly at labour organisations. The Communists, however, did not eschew violent activity and they were responsible for an attempted murder of a police officer and throwing a hand-grenade into a car of an unoccupied police vehicle. Police counter-action resulted in the seizure of 6 firearms, 154 hand-grenades and a quantity of ammunition illegally held by the M.C.P. Two clandestine printing presses, one of which was operated by Chinese middle school students, were seized, together with printing materials and Party documents; Police pressure against important M.C.P. personalities was maintained throughout the year and altogether 31 convictions involving 27 persons for offences connected with subversive activities were obtained, while 10 other cases involving 13 persons were awaiting trial. A total of 75 persons were detained. Among those detained during the year were persons known to have been responsible in the past for a number of public outrages, including murders of two Police officers and two civilians, the attempted murder of a civilian and two incendiary attacks.

In September the Singapore Government joined the Federation Government in offering a conditional amnesty to the M.C.P., but there was no response. In December the Chief Minister, Mr. David Marshall, joined the Chief Minister of the Federation, Tengku Abdul Rahman in the talks with Chin Peng, the M.C.P. leader, but the M.C.P. were not prepared to accept the amnesty or the terms offered by the two elected governments.

The material background to these political developments was one of continued commercial prosperity, accompanied, however, by clear signs of the need for careful re-assessment of the basic factors. The value of trade was the highest since the Korean War peak year of 1951, with Asian countries outside the sterling area contributing a much larger share of imports, and a number of new factories were established, the largest being Singapore's first steel and iron rolling mill. But the financial figures showed continued increase in expenditure, especially on welfare services, with no corresponding increase in revenue; and the Report (published in September) of the World Bank Mission, which remarked on the relatively advanced stage of the Malayan economy and the basic need for increased organisational and technical efficiency within a continuing pattern of essentially small-scale operations, was to be read

against an unhappy history of industrial unsettlement, with more man-days (946,350) lost through strikes than in any year since 1945, and with nearly two-thirds of the 275 strikes relating to causes other than genuine disputes over wages and conditions of work. The climate for new industrial investment has been adversely affected.

The labour unrest was the more lamentable in the face of actual and projected improvement in living and working conditions. New legislation had brought a 44-hour working week, 28 days' paid sick leave and one week's paid annual leave for labour, and a compulsory provident fund scheme. Investigation had started under the Economic Adviser (Sir Sidney Caine, K.C.M.G.) into minimum wage legislation, unemployment insurance and minimum standards of living. In the field of social service expansion of medical facilities resulted in still further decline in the death rate, and especially in the maternal and infantile mortality rate, and there was great expansion in the provision for education at all levels, from primary school to University. The regular and emergency relief schemes of the Social Welfare Department were a constant source of succour to the sick and distressed, and the Singapore Improvement Trust (the official housing agency for Government) built half as many housing units again as in 1954, while private building in rural areas was twice the amount of the previous year. Drinking water continued to be the cleanest in any tropical city, and electricity production increased. Road building expanded rapidly, and a spectacular improvement in the international communications of South-East Asia was marked by the opening in August by the Secretary of State for the Colonies of a new airport at Paya Lebar, for which the United Kingdom Government had contributed \$10 million towards the total cost of \$37 million.

Apart from political and labour troubles, the other great cause of disquiet by the end of the year was the attitude of Chinese middle school students; who had acquired an unenviable reputation for turbulent agitation on issues far removed from legitimate educational interests. Their part in the riots of May has already been noted; it was followed by opposition to the security legislation which the Government's early experience had proved necessary; and throughout the year they clamoured for the registration under the Societies Ordinance of their Students Union. This demand was conceded after the students had reluctantly agreed to

include in the Union's constitution a clause stipulating that it should take no part in political activity or industrial disputes. This provision was contravened more than once before the end of the year. To meet any genuine apprehension of the future of Chinese education the Government set up a Committee, of members of all parties in the Legislative Assembly, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Education (Mr. Chew Swee Kee),

to investigate the situation in Chinese schools in Singapore and to make recommendations for the improvement and strengthening of Chinese education in the interests of Chinese culture and orderly progress towards self-government and ultimate independence.

This Committee was still in session when the year closed, and it was generally appreciated that its deliberations, even more than those of the Constitutional Conference timed for early 1956, would be crucial for the future of Singapore.

II

POPULATION

THE MID-1955 population of the Colony of Singapore (excluding Cocos-Keeling Islands) was estimated at 1,212,588 excluding Service personnel in Service establishments and transients afloat. This shows an increase of 45,530 over the corresponding figure of 1,167,058 in mid-1954. The population is continuing to grow rapidly.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

Mid-1955

SINGAPORE

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Christmas Island</i>	<i>Singapore and Christmas Island</i>
Chinese ..	..	473,027	453,426	926,453	1,528	927,981
Malaysians ..	..	79,632	68,470	148,102	418	148,520
Indians and Pakistanis		65,090	29,200	94,290	5	94,295
Europeans ..	..	8,525	9,677	18,202	103	18,305
Eurasians ..	..	5,779	5,905	11,684	—	11,684
Others ..	..	6,731	5,072	11,803	—	11,803
Total, All Races ..		638,784	571,750	1,210,534	2,054	1,212,588

Notes:—On 23rd November, 1955, the Cocos-Keeling Islands ceased to form part of the Colony of Singapore and were placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia. Moreover, the mid-1955 population of Cocos-Keeling Islands is not available. In mid-1954 the population of Cocos-Keeling Islands was 624.

The figures for Christmas Island are actual, while the figures for Singapore are estimated as at mid-1955. The estimated figures must be treated with some reserve. The last population census was in 1947 and the population estimates for Singapore for 1955 are made by allowing for births, deaths and migration since that census. Birth and death registrations are almost complete, but

the migrational surplus or deficit can be stated with accuracy only in respect of the whole of Malaya since there is no passport check on people passing between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. In making estimates of population it is therefore necessary for the Registrar of Malayan Statistics to apportion migrational balances by sex and racial group to the two territories in proportion to their current populations. It is however believed that within Malaya the general direction of internal movement has been from the Federation into Singapore. The internal movement for the past few years may be seen from the following table:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Federation of Malaya identity cards surrendered for Singapore identity cards</i>	<i>Singapore identity cards surrendered for Federation of Malaya identity cards</i>	<i>(2)–(3)</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>
1949	... 13,147	12,970	177
1950	... 16,651	13,215	3,436
1951	... 25,115	13,875	11,240
1952	... 21,576	13,428	8,148
1953	... 18,220	13,183	5,037
1954	... 17,313	12,597	4,716
1955	... 14,458	10,602	3,856
1949–55	... 126,480	89,870	36,610

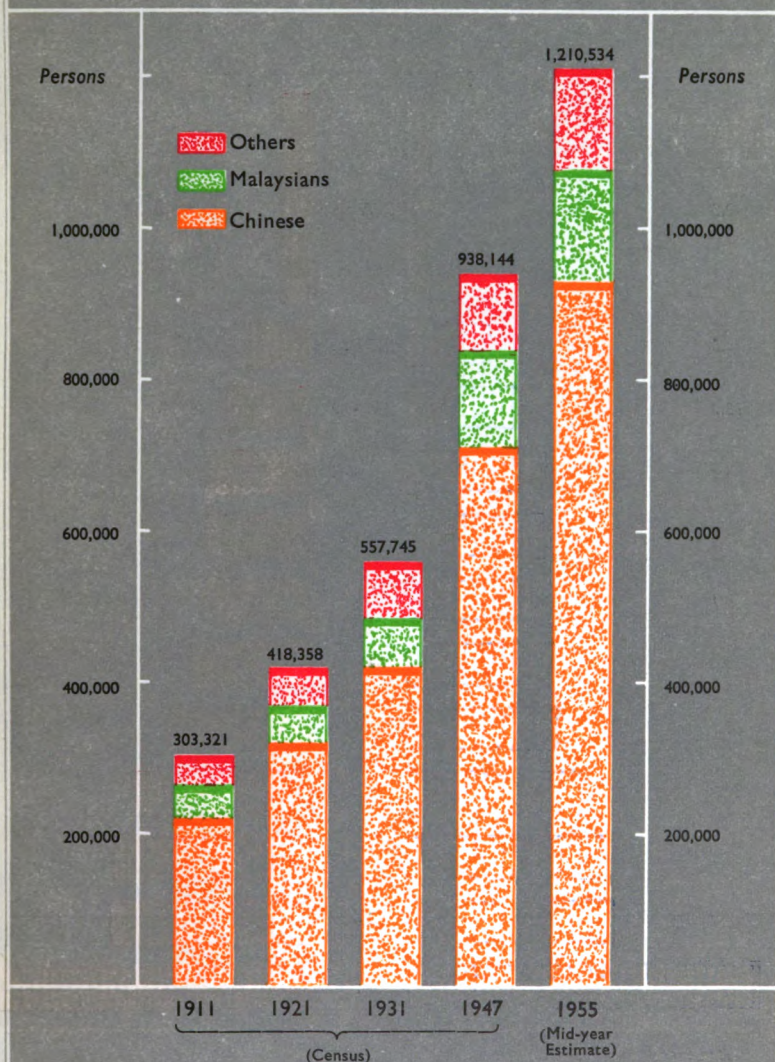
The population figures in this chapter are therefore probably slightly under-estimated. This fact should be borne in mind when dealing with the vital statistics rates of which the population estimate forms the denominator. It is intended to take the next population census in 1957.

BIRTHS

The registration of births in Singapore is compulsory and may be effected at a number of registration centres established for the purpose or at any Police Station outside the City limits. There is a greater incentive for people to register the births of their children since the possession of a birth certificate as a legal document has come to be appreciated in connection with entry into Government schools, application for passports, naturalisation and so on. There is indirect evidence to support the claim that the registration of births is virtually complete.

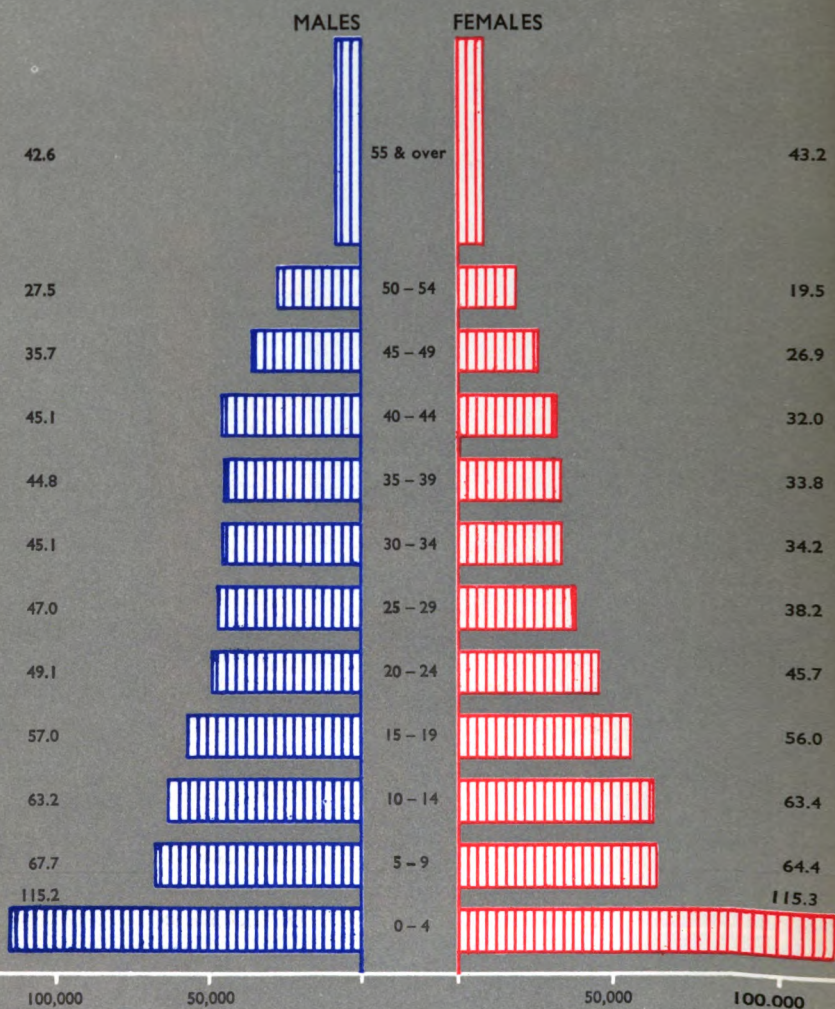
POPULATION GROWTH

(Excluding Christmas Island)



1955 AGE DISTRIBUTION

(Excluding Christmas Island)



BIRTHS AND CRUDE BIRTH RATES
(excluding Christmas Island)

	1947		1953		1954		1955	
	<i>Births Regis- tered</i>	<i>Crude birth rate</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Crude birth rate</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Crude birth rate</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Crude birth rate</i>
Chinese	.. 33,629	46.10	41,619	48.44	42,850	48.06	43,069	46.49
Malaysians	.. 5,473	48.09	7,304	53.36	8,118	56.83	8,336	56.29
Indians and Pakis- tanis	.. 3,087	44.76	3,961	45.42	4,269	46.91	4,431	46.99
Europeans	.. 312		839		895		1,033	
Eurasians	.. 359		320		330		358	
Others	.. 185		505		567		585	
Totals	.. 43,045	45.88	54,548	48.67	57,029	48.95	57,812	47.76
Males	.. 22,152		28,175		29,582		29,648	
Females	.. 20,893		26,373		27,447		28,164	
Totals	.. 43,045		54,548		57,029		57,812	

Notes:—The crude birth rate is the number of live births per 1,000 estimated mid-year population. The 1953, 1954 and 1955 figures are births by year of occurrence as opposed to births by year of registration. The law allows 42 days from the date the birth occurs in which to register. During the year there were 46 male and 51 female births on Christmas Island.

The crude birth rate for 1955, calculated from births by year of occurrence, stands at the high figure of 47.76 per 1,000 estimated mid-year population, compared with 48.95 in 1954. To what extent this fall in the crude birth rate is actual or is due to the possible error in the estimate of the population base, it is difficult to say.

The relatively small proportion of females in the population a few decades ago has been largely rectified by immigration and natural increase. The result is reflected in the increasing number of births. The number of births, 57,812 again increased on last year's record figure of 57,029. Most of the population is young; over half are under 21. With a young and virile population rapidly reaching maturity, more and more babies will be produced each year. A factor tending to reduce the crude birth rate is the increasing proportion of the population who have not yet reached the reproductive age.

The comparatively high birth rate is accompanied by a high survival rate which is mainly the result of improved medical services which have made Singapore an exceptionally healthy place by tropical standards. The growth of Western medical techniques before, during and after child-birth and their increasing popularity have also contributed to the high survival rate.

SINGAPORE (EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS ISLAND)

Births which occurred during the year 1955 by Sex, Racial Group or Child and by Mother's Age

Mother's Age in years	Europeans		Eurasians		Chinese		Malaysians		Indians and Pakistanis		Others		Total		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
12	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	
13	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	4	4	
14	..	—	—	—	1	3	4	7	14	11	—	—	19	21	
15	..	—	—	2	17	16	50	47	20	36	—	—	87	101	
16	..	—	2	—	93	93	117	113	60	66	1	—	273	272	
17	..	—	2	1	189	194	158	173	63	50	8	6	420	424	
18	..	3	4	6	2	386	367	318	267	105	104	14	6	832	750
19	..	8	4	6	5	734	662	307	287	116	119	9	13	1,180	1,090
20	..	12	10	9	10	964	986	414	355	142	139	21	10	1,562	1,510
21	..	28	34	16	10	1,112	1,058	306	267	121	123	21	17	1,604	1,509
22	..	36	31	12	16	1,329	1,260	285	284	145	148	18	20	1,825	1,759
23	..	24	40	17	13	1,306	1,289	257	275	121	119	24	32	1,749	1,768
24	..	52	37	12	9	1,407	1,340	208	245	117	97	17	18	1,813	1,746
25	..	50	29	22	16	1,490	1,341	336	351	155	134	18	24	2,071	1,895
26	..	41	34	13	6	1,398	1,247	228	201	115	97	17	15	1,812	1,600
27	..	37	30	10	12	1,350	1,284	191	208	97	103	14	16	1,699	1,653
28	..	31	34	12	13	1,232	1,206	213	202	87	92	15	14	1,590	1,561
29	..	21	23	11	9	970	948	136	119	76	61	5	10	1,219	1,170
30	..	31	28	11	12	998	935	231	232	79	68	12	12	1,362	1,287
31	..	18	24	7	6	897	775	83	93	59	53	5	4	1,069	955
32	..	31	21	6	7	834	790	147	133	81	58	6	2	1,105	1,011
33	..	15	15	9	8	684	694	70	60	40	36	6	5	824	818
34	..	21	10	7	8	674	736	71	61	43	39	6	6	822	860
35	..	14	11	8	4	694	639	134	101	42	52	4	8	896	815
36	..	7	15	4	6	595	596	49	46	27	17	5	3	687	683
37	..	6	8	6	4	583	550	54	49	15	18	5	1	669	630
38	..	8	7	4	6	542	473	42	29	17	16	3	2	616	533
39	..	4	3	2	1	440	396	14	14	11	8	2	3	473	425
40	..	5	6	1	3	397	392	32	30	12	11	1	5	448	447
41	..	3	2	2	—	252	226	11	7	4	6	1	—	273	241
42	..	1	—	1	1	228	219	11	24	6	7	—	1	247	252
43	..	1	—	—	—	151	154	6	5	3	2	—	1	161	162
44	..	1	1	—	—	93	100	4	1	1	—	—	—	99	102
45	..	—	1	—	—	74	41	7	5	—	—	—	—	81	47
Over 45	..	1	—	—	—	50	56	2	2	—	1	—	—	53	59
Unknown	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	3	3
Totals	..	510	462	218	190	22,167	21,066	4,496	4,297	1,997	1,894	260	255	29,648	28,164

MARRIAGES

Many forms of Christian and Muslim marriage are expressly provided for in the statute law of the Colony and marriages between parties of any creed, except when both parties are Muslim, may be solemnized under the Civil Marriage Ordinance by the Registrar of Marriages. Marriages according to customary rites, though recognised in the Courts, are not registered. Complete figures for marriages are therefore not available.

Civil marriages and, save in exceptional circumstances, Christian marriages are invalid if either of the parties is under the age of 16 years.

There has been a movement amongst Malay women against polygamy. Islam permits a Muslim to marry up to four wives at a time provided certain conditions are fulfilled. In practice monogamy is usual. There is also a movement to provide for Hindu

marriages by statute. Amongst the non-Christian Chinese many forms of marriages are recognised by custom and secondary wives are allowed. In the law of the Colony they and their children have the same property rights as first wives and their children.

REGISTRY OF MARRIAGES
(Civil Marriages Registered)

		1947	1950	1954	1955
Chinese	...	292	573	1,152	1,210
Malaysians	...	—	—	—	—
Indians	...	43	40	96	80
Europeans	...	86	117	76	66
Others	...	64	60	57	59*
Total	...	485	790	1,381	1,415

* Includes 49 inter-racial marriages.

DEATHS

The registration of deaths is compulsory and may be effected at the same registration centres and Police Stations as for births. Since a burial permit may be obtained only after a death has been registered, this procedure ensures virtual completeness of death registration. Coroner's enquiries are required whenever a suspicion arises that a death has not been due to natural causes (see Chapter XIII).

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

	1947		1953		1954		1955	
	Deaths registered	Crude death rate	Deaths registered	Crude death rate	Deaths registered	Crude death rate	Deaths registered	Crude death rate
Chinese	9,368	12.84	8,484	9.87	7,752	8.69	7,648	8.26
Malaysians	2,029	17.83	1,984	14.49	1,933	13.53	1,947	13.15
Indians and Pakistanis	878	12.73	814	9.33	805	8.84	712	7.55
Europeans	74	7.97	92	5.82	107	6.25	86	4.72
Eurasians	84	9.22	82	7.37	94	8.24	78	6.68
Others	78	10.38	100	9.49	99	8.84	102	8.64
Totals	12,511	13.34	11,556	10.31	10,790	9.26	10,573	8.73
Males ..	7,428		6,625		6,285		6,056	
Females	5,081		4,931		4,498		4,513	
Totals	12,511*		11,556		10,790†		10,573‡	

* Includes two of unknown sex.

† Includes seven of unknown sex.

‡ Includes four of unknown sex.

Notes:—The crude death rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 estimated mid-year population. During the year there were 7 male and 3 female deaths on Christmas Island.

The crude death rate shows a fall from the already low figure of 9.26 per 1,000 estimated mid-year population in 1954 to 8.73 for 1955. As for the crude birth rate, to what extent this fall in the crude death rate is actual or is due, among other factors, to the possible error in the estimate of the population base, it is difficult to say. Nevertheless, the general trend shown by the crude death rate (apart from the occupation period of 1941-45 and its aftermath) has been a steady decline from 24.2 in 1931 to 20.9 in 1940, and further to 10.3 in 1953. The progressive reduction over the years in the average age of the population is not the only factor contributing to the decline in the death rate. Other factors are to be found in the stringent public health measures which have been enforced, the increasing popularity of western medicine and better general standards of living and especially of housing (see Chapters VIII and X).

Infant mortality and maternal mortality are discussed in Chapter X.

SINGAPORE

Deaths registered during the year 1955 by Age Group, Sex and Racial Group

Age Group	Euro-peans		Eura-sians		Chinese		Malay-sians		Indians and Pakis-tanis		Others		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 day ..	3	—	—	1	126	91	44	45	11	8	3	3	187	148
1 day and under 2 days ..	3	—	—	—	79	50	17	14	1	7	2	4	102	75
2 days and under 3 days ..	2	—	1	1	36	31	10	8	3	3	—	—	52	43
3 days and under 4 days ..	—	—	1	—	27	24	9	6	4	5	1	—	42	35
4 days and under 5 days ..	—	—	1	—	16	15	9	14	7	3	—	—	33	32
5 days and under 6 days ..	—	—	1	—	20	13	6	7	2	—	—	—	29	20
6 days and under 7 days ..	—	—	—	—	16	17	3	5	—	1	3	—	22	23
7 days and under 14 days ..	1	—	—	1	94	77	22	20	11	3	—	4	128	105
14 days and under 21 days ..	1	—	—	—	65	54	23	12	3	8	1	1	93	75
21 days and under 28 days ..	—	—	1	—	19	27	15	16	4	1	—	—	39	44
Neo-Natal Deaths	10	—	5	—	3,498	399	158	147	46	39	10	12	727	600
28 days and under 2 months	3	1	—	—	82	69	79	49	14	12	—	—	178	131
2 months and under 3 months	1	—	1	—	65	36	57	32	8	9	1	—	133	77
3 months and under 4 months	1	—	—	—	54	37	41	31	7	6	—	—	103	74
4 months and under 5 months	—	—	—	—	44	45	38	20	1	3	1	1	84	69
5 months and under 6 months	—	—	—	—	42	36	21	15	3	4	—	1	66	56
6 months and under 7 months	—	1	1	—	25	29	24	21	5	1	3	—	58	52
7 months and under 8 months	1	—	—	1	27	31	16	14	6	4	2	—	52	50
8 months and under 9 months	—	—	—	—	31	40	23	16	5	6	—	1	59	63
9 months and under 10 months ..	—	—	—	—	23	36	13	16	4	3	—	—	40	55
10 months and under 11 months ..	—	—	—	—	23	20	9	13	1	3	—	2	33	38
11 months and under 1 year	—	—	1	—	15	26	12	11	5	1	—	—	33	38
Infant mortality *	16	2	8	—	4,929	804	491	385	105	91	17	17	1,566	1,303

* Includes neo-natal deaths.

One death of unknown sex is included under 'Male'.

SINGAPORE

Deaths registered during the year 1955 by Age Group, Sex and Racial Group

Age Group	Euro-peans		Eura-sians		Chinese		Malay-sians		Indians and Pakis-tanis		Others		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	16	2	8	4	929	804	491	385	105	91	17	17	1,566	1,303
1 year and under														
2 years	—	1	—	1	159	157	64	67	14	13	1	—	238	239
2 years and under														
3 years	—	—	—	2	101	105	33	28	5	4	1	—	140	139
3 years and under														
4 years	1	1	1	—	65	54	17	10	2	5	2	—	88	70
4 years and under														
5 years	—	—	1	—	45	44	9	11	1	3	1	—	57	58
5—9 years	2	—	—	—	91	70	32	14	9	9	—	1	134	94
10—14 years	1	—	—	—	42	25	13	10	4	—	1	—	61	35
15—19 years	3	—	2	—	69	54	20	16	4	5	2	—	100	75
20—24 years	6	—	1	1	72	51	8	19	10	7	4	3	101	81
25—29 years	9	5	2	1	83	48	22	33	21	1	3	1	140	89
30—34 years	2	—	—	—	90	72	30	23	24	8	2	2	148	105
35—39 years	4	—	4	—	157	107	22	26	26	7	1	—	214	140
40—44 years	4	—	1	—	220	134	21	26	40	7	1	—	287	167
45—49 years	4	—	3	1	284	142	33	30	49	12	4	1	377	186
50—54 years	5	1	1	—	383	166	30	41	57	11	4	2	480	221
55—59 years	2	1	6	7	418	205	49	41	36	8	5	2	516	264
60—64 years	6	2	3	4	387	214	56	23	35	10	3	1	490	254
65—69 years	5	1	6	1	330	224	24	42	26	9	1	3	392	280
70—74 years	2	—	2	4	224	233	25	14	10	6	2	—	265	257
75—79 years	—	—	1	3	127	163	19	17	4	8	2	1	153	192
80—84 years	—	—	1	4	59	128	7	13	2	2	—	1	69	148
85 years and over	—	—	—	2	19	88	14	19	1	1	1	1	35	111
Unknown	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	5	3	9	5
Total	72	14	43	35	4,358	3,290	1,039	908	485	227	63	39	6,060	4,513

Deaths of unknown sex, numbering four, are included under 'Male'.

NATURAL INCREASE

In 1955, births exceed deaths by 47,239. If the rate of natural increase is defined as the difference between the crude birth rate and crude death rate, the rate of natural increase for Singapore in 1955 is 39.03 per 1,000 estimated mid-year population. This is perhaps one of the highest rates of natural increase in the world.

MIGRATION

Singapore and the Federation of Malaya have long formed a single immigration unit, although both territories have their own separate Immigration Departments. Movement between the two territories is unrestricted, and permission to enter one territory includes permission to enter the other.

Until 1933 the prime need of Malaya as a whole was for labour to develop its rubber and tin industries. Accordingly little restriction was placed on the entry of aliens who came and went in

response to the fluctuations of local economic prosperity. Undesirables and potential destitutes alone were excluded. The majority of immigrants were adult males who were not accompanied by their wives and children.

The slump period of 1928 to 1933 saw many of these immigrants out of work without the money for their homeward passages. The Malayan Governments became involved in enormous expenditure on relief work and repatriation, and as a safeguard for the future instituted a quota system for the entry of aliens. The quota was varied from time to time to suit changing circumstances, but was never really effective as a means of letting in only those immigrants wanted by Malaya and in any case allowed a net gain of 648,000 persons in the period 1934 to 1938. These were mostly males except in the last year or so when the Sino-Japanese war sent a flood of wives and children and a large number of unmarried women to join their relatives in Malaya. During the Japanese occupation many labourers and others were compulsorily transported from Malaya.

After 1946 it became increasingly necessary to introduce selective immigration and to restrict entry to those who could contribute to the development of the country. To achieve this, new immigration legislation came into force on 1st August, 1953, both in the Colony and in the Federation. Under this legislation British subjects born or ordinarily resident in Malaya, Federal citizens and certain others have an unrestricted right of entry, but the entry of all newcomers to the territory (other than on visits) is prohibited unless they fall within one or other of the categories mentioned in the Immigration (Prohibition of Entry) Order, which, broadly speaking, admits only those who can contribute to the commerce and industry of the Colony and those who can provide specialised services not at present available locally in sufficient quantity.

The year 1955 has seen the second complete year of the working of this new legislation. Comparison with the 1954 figures shows that the number of new immigrants has remained fairly constant with the exception that there have been increases in the arrivals of wives and children of Chinese and Indian residents. One hundred and ninety-nine specialists were permitted to enter during the year, this being a decrease of 125 over 1954. The main categories in order of importance were engineers and technicians, teachers, accountants and doctors. Four hundred and twenty-three contract employees were allowed in against 381 in the previous year. Only 14 skilled artisans were admitted permanently.

Almost all were skilled carpenters from Hong Kong. Persons allowed entry on the grounds of economic benefit to the Colony totalled only seven in all, but as is usual for this category a wide range of interests was covered including development of the building and rattan industries, the promotion of deep sea fishing and of timber exports, and expansion of the Colony's trade with Middle East countries. A total number of 2,784 wives with 2,249 children were allowed to join their husbands already resident in Singapore. Of these, 3,844 were the wives and children of Chinese residents, an increase of 753 on the 1954 figures. The reasons for this increase may be attributed to difficulties in China coupled with the growing desire of locally resident Chinese to have their families with them, and the closer association of the Government with the people following the introduction of the Ministerial system. Finally, it has been possible during the year to start clearing up the large backlog of applications which had accumulated owing to shortages of staff. Another interesting feature has been the change in the pattern of Indian immigration whereby more and more Indian nationals are bringing their wives and children to join them in the Colony, a change prompted no doubt by the Immigration legislation as such children lost their right of entry on reaching the age of eighteen.

The table below shows the main movements which have taken place, there being a total-migrational balance for Singapore of 421.

MIGRATION 1955

	<i>Arrivals Pan-Malayan</i>		<i>Departures Pan-Malayan</i>		<i>Migrational Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) Pan-Malayan</i>		<i>Estimated Migrational Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) for Singapore</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Chinese ..	50,589	23,641	53,068	17,877	- 2,479	+ 5,764	- 704	+ 1,689
Malaysians ..	90,768	62,456	98,759	81,537	- 7,991	- 19,081	- 408	- 840
Indians and Pakistanis	45,081	8,316	45,573	7,858	- 492	+ 458	- 67	+ 40
Europeans ..	31,244	14,726	30,870	14,347	+ 374	+ 379	+ 193	+ 206
Eurasians ..	295	206	265	170	+ 30	+ 36	+ 15	+ 17
Others ..	14,589	8,495	13,435	7,904	+ 1,154	+ 591	+ 185	+ 95
Totals ..	232,566	117,840	241,970	129,693	- 9,404	- 11,853	- 786	+ 1,207

Note:—Of all the arrivals 115,254 took place through Singapore and of all the departures 119,197 took place through Singapore.

The Marine Police and the Customs Department employ their launches and other facilities to prevent clandestine immigration from the neighbouring territories whose populations exert a great pressure and tend to be attracted by living conditions in Singapore.

In addition a national registration system was introduced in 1948 as an emergency measure. Every person over the age of twelve is required to obtain an Identity Card unless his stay in Singapore is for less than thirty days. The issue of cards is linked to the immigration control system. The Commissioner of National Registration issued 46,403 new cards in 1955 and a further 52,322 to replace lost or defaced cards. The Register of Electors for the first general election under the new constitution was prepared and is being revised from information available in the National Registration Office. As in most other countries aliens who are resident in the Colony are required to register their names, addresses and other particulars. Chinese and Indonesians are not required to register, but the nationals of other countries must report to the Registrar of Aliens after fourteen days' stay. In 1955 a total of 1,740 new persons were registered and at the end of the year there were 2,278 aliens of 43 nationalities remaining on the books as resident for over one month. Hotels and lodging houses are required to keep registers of arrivals and departures.

As a result of increasing restrictions on the entry of aliens since the early 1930's the population has become more settled and cases of second and subsequent generations being born in Malaya, and having therefore the status of British subjects are becoming more frequent.

PERCENTAGE OF LOCALLY BORN IN THE TOTAL POPULATION

		1921	1931	1947	1955*
Both sexes	...	31.0	39.0	60.7	73
Males	...	23.4	31.1	56.2	70
Females	...	47.1	52.7	66.2	76

* Tentative estimates.

There are, of course, many families whose forbears immigrated several generations ago. Notable amongst these are the so-called Straits Chinese who have developed a speech and customs considerably different from those of present-day immigrants from China.

NATIONALITY AND NATURALISATION

For purposes of nationality the inhabitants of Singapore are treated in the same way as those of the United Kingdom and are governed by the British Nationality Act, 1948. Persons born in the Colony are British subjects, citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. Those born in the self-governing dominions of the British Commonwealth are citizens of their own dominion.

In Singapore there is a large number of alien-born Chinese and a considerable number of British Protected persons from the Federation of Malaya. This has led to peculiar problems of naturalisation since an important feature of government policy is to encourage a regard for Singapore and for Malaya in general as an object of loyalty among all races. The qualifications for naturalisation which are required consist of a residential qualification, a requirement that the applicant be of good character, and that he intends to reside in the United Kingdom or associated territories or to enter or continue in Crown service.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALISATION ISSUED

		1952	1953	1954	1955
Europeans	...	12	9	10	1
Chinese	...	139	334	264	224
Stateless	...	10	11	23	13
Others	...	7	14	38	20
Total	...	<u>168</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>258</u>

There is provision for the citizens of Commonwealth countries to register themselves as citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. During the year under review a total of 588 persons took advantage of this provision.

LANGUAGES

The distribution of the population by languages and dialects has not been accurately enumerated since the last census in 1947. The cosmopolitan nature of the Colony is such that few European or Oriental languages are completely unrepresented.

RELIGIONS

A precise enumeration of religions has not been made and, indeed, is scarcely possible. The Malaysians are almost without exception Muslim. The Europeans and Eurasians are almost without exception Christian. About 3 per cent of the Chinese are Christian and the remainder are sometimes referred to as professing the national religion of China. They include Buddhists and an indeterminate number who are variously described as Taoist and Confucianist. It is not possible to make any simple distinction between the various Chinese religions. Of the Indian community about 70 per cent are Hindu, 20 per cent Muslim, 5 per cent Christian and 2 per cent Sikh. There are a few Jews, Parsees and others.

GENERAL

A comparison of the figures in the preceding tables shows the great excess of births over deaths which is not offset by emigration.

Almost every aspect of social and economic activity is affected by this. The population is at present increasing by about 3 per cent per annum cumulatively, and at the present rate of natural increase, it will reach two millions by 1972. At present there is an estimated annual addition of the order of 16,000 to the number available for employment and this figure may be expected to rise in the course of time. The number of places required in primary schools must increase by 20,000 a year to provide for the annual increase in the child population. Large numbers of people are still badly housed and require extensive rehousing. Quite apart from these, however, the housing of each year's increase in population would require about \$40 millions on even the most economic scale.

III

OCCUPATIONS, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION

PUBLIC ATTENTION during 1955 has been greatly concerned with industrial relations, wages and working conditions. The year began quietly but the hopes and aspirations of workers were roused by the General Election campaign and the immediate aftermath. Claims against employers for improvements in conditions of employment were resolutely pressed, there was an unprecedented wave of strikes. The man-days lost through industrial disputes were seven times as many as in 1954 and eventually reached 946,354, surpassing even the level of 1946. By the end of the year it was apparent that the peak had passed and although the loss of man-days continued at a high level strikes in progress were few in number. The year 1955 was also notable for the coming into force of the Central Provident Fund and Workmen's Compensation Ordinances which had been enacted in previous years and conferred respectively new and enhanced benefits on workers. Even more notable was the passing of a new workers' charter, the Labour Ordinance (No. 40 of 1955), which came into force on 1st December and so fulfilled in part the Government's policy of raising the minimum standards for working conditions.

Singapore is not an island of big industries in the sense in which the term is understood elsewhere but has a large number of small industries serving its needs as a major port, military base and entrepôt trade centre. Until the 1920's the demand for labour attracted large numbers of immigrants from India and China and legislation was directed mainly to their protection and the adjudication of disputes between the immigrants and their employers. A more detailed account of this migration is given in Chapter II. The position now is that the immigration of manual workers has almost ceased. The population has become settled and labour administration has been able to turn to the problems of conditions of work, industrial safety and industrial relations.

The role of Government in the labour field has thus developed from its earlier preoccupation with immigrant manual labour to cover an increasingly wide range of workers and industrial activities. It is still primarily concerned with manual workers and stands in a position of impartiality between them and their employers. The Ministry of Labour and Welfare has its offices in the centre of the City and the duties of its Labour Department include the administration of the laws governing the employment of manual workers, the use of machinery, the registration of trade unions, the enforcement of weekly holidays for shop assistants and the employment of children. It administers certain parts of the laws relating to industrial courts, wages councils and workmen's compensation. Apart from this the Department also undertakes to advise trade unions on the general conduct of their affairs, offers conciliation in industrial disputes, advises Government departments on personnel problems and the welfare of staff, maintains an employment exchange service and provides training of industrial supervisors through "Training Within Industry" programmes. Some 7,000 visits of inspection to places of employment were made during the year. Actual expenditure for the Department for 1955 was \$907,748. The Commissioner for Labour is Chairman of the Labour Advisory Board which advises the Government on labour matters and has representatives from employers and employees. At meetings during the year, the Board discussed such subjects as workmen's compensation, labour administration, industrial relations, Whitleyism, the Central Provident Fund, Retail Rice Index and Emergency Regulations.

EMPLOYMENT

It is calculated from the 1947 census and other factors that out of a population of 1,212,700 (mid-1955 estimate) about 440,000 were gainfully occupied or available for work. The latter figure includes administrative, managerial and clerical workers, shop assistants, domestic workers, etc. besides manual workers.

A survey of manual workers is carried out by the Labour Department every six months.

MANUAL WORKERS IN EMPLOYMENT (in round figures)

		1952	1953	1954	1955
31st March	...	*	122,500	123,000	119,300
30th September	...	123,800	123,600	120,000	119,000†

* No comparable figure is available for March 1952.

† Preliminary count. This figure includes 1,500 workmen on strike on the date of the survey. The corrected figure would be 117,500.

It can be seen that the level of employment for manual workers remained steady from September 1952 to the middle of 1954; the level fell slightly in mid-1954 in sympathy with general trading conditions at that time, and then remained fairly steady at the lower level until the end of 1955. With improved trading conditions during 1955 the level of employment might have been expected to rise and failure to do so may be attributed, at least in part, to prevailing industrial unrest. The Labour Department's register lists 185 industries found in Singapore and 54 of them, each employing an average of over 400 manual workers in 1955, were regarded as principal industries. In the table below the fifteen largest of the principal industries are set out in descending order of the number of workmen employed in them. The figures emphasize the particular importance to Singapore of communications whether by land, sea or air.

MANUAL WORKERS IN FIFTEEN LARGEST INDUSTRIES

<i>Industry</i>	<i>1954</i>		<i>1955</i>	
	<i>March</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>September</i>
Ship building and repairing, including marine engineering	11,243	11,062	10,111	10,813
Building	9,851	9,998	10,216	9,144
Manufacture of machinery, except electric machinery, including general, construction and mechanical engineering ...	6,391	6,180	5,537	4,769
Harbours, docks, landing stages, light-houses, tugs, lighters and ferry services (Government and Singapore Harbour Board) ...	4,714	4,575	4,387	4,702
Repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	4,682	4,569	4,472	4,540
Other construction, repair and demolition work not elsewhere classified	6,221	5,527	5,500	4,457
Road transport not classified elsewhere including cartage and haulage contracting ...	4,700	4,548	4,155	4,309
Tramway and omnibus operators	3,834	3,940	4,137	4,298
Rubber grading and packing ...	4,373	3,988	4,089	3,828
Sanitary services	3,191	3,168	3,296	3,297
Stevedore and lighterage, excluding Government and Singapore Harbour Board	2,846	2,717	2,725	2,927
Air Force establishments not classified elsewhere ...	2,363	2,474	2,804	2,514
Printing, book-binding and art and engraving works ...	2,370	2,342	2,372	2,291
Medical, surgical, dental and other health services ...	1,700	1,981	2,078	2,281
Rubber milling	2,673	2,825	2,497	2,228

The decline in the level of unemployment of manual workers during the later part of 1955 was mainly in the construction and manufacturing divisions as the following table shows.

DISTRIBUTION OF MANUAL WORKERS TO INDUSTRIAL DIVISIONS

<i>Industrial Division</i>	<i>March 1954</i>	<i>September 1954</i>	<i>March 1955</i>	<i>September 1955</i>
Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing ...	2,676	2,100	1,810	1,656
Mining and Quarrying ...	1,637	1,556	1,613	1,382
Manufacturing ...	57,441	56,777	54,791	54,121
Construction ...	17,521	17,436	17,456	15,566
Electricity, Gas, Water and Sanitary Services ...	7,034	6,951	7,328	7,229
Commerce ...	8,463	7,584	7,550	7,675
Transport, Storage and Communication ...	18,731	18,351	18,294	18,946
Services* ...	9,459	9,333	10,460	10,977
Total ...	122,962	120,088	119,302	117,552†

* It should be explained that the industrial division described as 'Services' includes community and business services, recreation services, personal services and those Government services which are not otherwise specified. Where it has been possible to classify Navy, Army and Air Force labourers more suitably in some other division this has been done: e.g. Naval Base labourers engaged in ship building and repairing are included in the Manufacturing division.

† Preliminary count.

The most significant change shown by the table of 'Distribution of Manual Workers to Employers' is to be found in the reduced number of manual workers employed in private enterprise. It will also be noticed that the Armed Services, which employ about 18 per cent of the manual workers in the Colony, have about the same number as a year ago but Government and the City Council have slightly increased their labour forces.

DISTRIBUTION OF MANUAL WORKERS TO EMPLOYERS

	<i>September 1954</i>	<i>March 1955</i>	<i>September 1955</i>
United Kingdom Departments ...	202	240	241
Government ...	5,034	5,771	5,535
City Council ...	9,814	10,155	10,005
Singapore Harbour Board ...	6,766	6,831	6,863
Singapore Improvement Trust ...	415	481	465
Singapore Telephone Board ...	—	—	519
Armed Services ...	21,106	20,834	21,132
Private Enterprise ...	76,751	74,990	72,792
Total ...	120,088	119,302	117,552

Industrial unrest during the year had a dampening effect on proposals for the expansion of existing factories and the setting up of new factories which would have enlarged employment opportunities. Some 200 artisans, however, found work with the British Phosphate Commission and others went to work for employers in British Borneo territories. Building construction firms were able to use some of their Singapore workmen on jobs in Burma, North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei.

In marked contrast with a past era when the migration of labourers from China and India reached a very high level the local labour market can now meet most demands. For new industries local workmen with the special skills required may not be available and skilled artisans are admitted, generally for limited periods only, in order to establish the industries and train local workers. Whilst in Singapore these immigrant workers enjoy all the benefits of local legislation.

All the previous tables are concerned with manual workers only. There are no records for other occupations later than the 1947 Census Report. The 10,000 retail shops registered under the Weekly Holidays Ordinance provide employment for an estimated total of 65,000 employees. There are also over 10,000 licensed hawkers and some 11,000 licensed bus drivers, taxi drivers and trishaw riders.

Employment Exchange

The Employment Exchange service was first started in 1946 and has been used by unemployed persons and employers in many industries on a voluntary basis ever since. Apart from a central Exchange in the Ministry of Labour a full time branch operated at Bukit Panjang, close to the newly developed industrial areas along Bukit Timah Road. Five temporary branches (one was closed in May) continued to operate experimentally on two days a week each at various places in the suburbs.

Employment Exchange facilities are provided free of charge for all persons, irrespective of race or nationality, but preference is given to those unemployed who are ordinarily resident in Singapore. The central Exchange has a Commercial section for professional, technical and clerical occupations, a Domestic Servants section and a Men's section—the biggest—for occupations ranging from skilled technicians to unskilled manual labour.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

	1952	1953	1954	1955
Monthly average of new registrations	1,432	1,641	1,734	1,381
Monthly average of vacancies notified to the Exchange	1,534	867	670	622
Monthly average of persons placed in employment	831	588	380	368

Special emphasis is placed on juvenile employment but of 2,800 young persons (14-18) who registered for employment assistance in 1955 only 340 were placed in employment through the Exchange. Even so, this was an improvement on 1954. There was rarely much delay or difficulty in placing skilled artisans but the turnover of clerical and unskilled workers was generally slow.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In the absence of any system of compulsory registration for employment no figures are available to show the full extent of unemployment or under-employment in Singapore. Employment Exchange records of registered persons actively seeking employment are some guide, incomplete though they are. The number of persons actively seeking employment through the Government Employment Exchanges is counted at regular intervals. During 1955 the highest count was 7,293 on 28th March; the lowest 5,930 on 31st October and the average 6,603. It has been found from experience that the numbers are affected by other factors besides the total number of unemployed in Singapore. Rumours of jobs will attract rather more applicants than usual and the complete stoppage of buses on account of strikes towards the end of the year prevented some applicants from renewing their registrations.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

Apprenticeship and Vocational Training

Regulated apprenticeship training is found in the technical departments of the Government, the United Kingdom Services, public bodies such as Singapore Harbour Board and Singapore Telephone Board and a few big companies such as the Shell Company of Singapore Ltd. Apprentices generally have to be between 14 and 18 with five years schooling or more. In the majority of small private workshops training of new entrants is rather haphazard and it is not unusual to find 'apprentices' 40 years old. They are so called because, like entrants straight from school, they are

learning new trades by watching and assisting skilled tradesmen during normal production without special training arrangements. In establishments where organised training of new entrants is provided it has often happened that the trainee leaves to join a rival employer as a semi-skilled worker at a higher wage. In spite of these rather casual methods large numbers of workmen do reach proficiency in their trades by dint of long practical experience. At the same time there is need in many industries for organised apprenticeship and vocational training schemes to turn out tradesmen of recognised standards of skill.

Singapore was represented by a tripartite delegation at an International Labour Organisation (I.L.O.) technical conference held at Rangoon in December to discuss problems of vocational training in this part of the world.

Supervisory Training (Training Within Industry)

Under the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme Singapore enjoyed for most of the year the services of an I.L.O. expert on T.W.I. (Training Within Industry for Supervisors). During his mission the expert trained 25 group trainees who in turn trained between them about 1,500 supervisors in one or more of the three T.W.I. programmes—Job Instruction, Job Relations and Job Methods. The scheme met with an enthusiastic response and strong support from managements, both public and private. By the end of 1955 a Supervisory Training Association to encourage and expand the scheme was in the process of formation.

Training and Employment of Disabled Persons

Since 1953 there has been a special section in the Labour Department to organise the training and eventual employment in industry of persons whose prospects are seriously reduced as a result of physical or mental disability. A voluntary scheme of training in handicrafts and light industries is operated with the co-operation of willing employers. Although only 64 persons were placed in training during 1955 the scheme is gradually expanding in scope. Close liaison is maintained between the Departments of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health. During 1955 a working party studied the problems of employing more disabled persons in the Government service. The main difficulty is not provision of training but the subsequent placement in employment and expansion of the scheme has to be geared to this capacity.

DISABLED PERSONS

	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Began Training</i>	<i>Completed Training</i>	<i>Placed</i>
Before 1955 ...	737	40	16	80
During 1955 ...	356	64	58	100
Total ...	1,093	104	74	180

WAGES AND HOURS OF WORK

Wages

At the end of July 1955 a sample survey of average weekly earnings and hours of work in the 54 principal industries of Singapore was conducted in accordance with the requirements of Convention No. 63 of the International Labour Organisation. These 54 industries employ about 85.7 per cent of the labour population. It is noteworthy that the average weekly earnings for all manual workers increased from \$33.10 in 1954 to \$36.80 in 1955 (11.2 per cent) and that the average hourly earnings rose from 65 cents to 74 cents (13.8 per cent). There is a slight decrease from 50.54 in 1954 to 49.98 in 1955 in the average weekly hours of work for all manual workers, indicating a general increase in wage rates. A tendency, noted in 1953 and 1954, for the ranges of earnings to contract around the general average continued in 1955.

The main cause of the substantial increases in earnings this year was the success of wage demands presented from April onwards, generally through trade unions.

There is provision in the Labour Ordinance for the adjudication of individual claims between manual workers and their employers relating to wages, advances and conditions of employment. These disputes are heard by officers of the Labour Department, whose decisions have the force of District Court judgments, but whose procedure has less formality than in the courts and involves no fees.

WORKERS' CLAIMS

	1954	1955
Cases instituted during the year ...	586	393
Claims successful in the year ...	363	240
Total sum ordered to be paid ...	\$262,250	\$205,372
Sum actually paid ...	\$98,300	\$59,925
Cases carried forward to following year ...	22	15

Many cases are instituted because employers have either absconded or are in financial difficulties; it is therefore never possible to secure payment in full of the amounts ordered to be paid.

The following two tables give daily wage-rates for selected occupations prevailing during the period October to December :—

PREVAILING DAILY WAGE-RATES OF SELECTED OCCUPATIONS
(SKILLED WORKERS)

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Industry</i>	<i>Minimum Wage-Rates</i>	<i>Average Wage- Rates</i>	<i>Maximum Wage-Rates</i>
		<i>\$ c.</i>	<i>\$ c.</i>	<i>\$ c.</i>
Bench Fitter ...	Engineering ...	3 20	6 18	9 60
Welders (Gas-Electric) ...	Engineering ...	3 82	5 67	10 00
Lathe Operators (Turners) ...	Engineering ...	3 80	6 58	9 80
Boiler Makers ...	Engineering ...	4 50	6 75	8 50
Moulders-Founders	Foundry ...	2 90	6 25	9 00
Motors Fitters (1st Grade) ...	Motor Works ...	6 00	6 84	9 00
Motor Fitters (2nd Grade) ...	Motor Works ...	4 25	5 11	5 85
Carpenters ...	Building Construction ...	7 00	9 08	10 00
Bricklayers (Mason)	Building Construction ...	4 00	8 48	12 00
Steel Workers (Benders) ...	Building Construction ...	7 00	7 47	8 00
Electricians ...	Engineering ...	4 00	6 99	8 83
Linotype Operators ...	Printing Press ...	5 17	8 20	11 66
Glass Blowers (Benders) ...	Glass Works ...	4 10	7 84	13 00

PREVAILING DAILY WAGE-RATES OF SELECTED OCCUPATIONS
(UNSKILLED WORKERS)

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mini- mum Wage- Rates</i>	<i>Average Wage- Rates</i>	<i>Maxi- mum Wage- Rates</i>
		<i>\$ c.</i>	<i>\$ c.</i>	<i>\$ c.</i>
General Labourers ...	Engineering (male) ...	2 80	5 00	8 00
General Labourers ...	Engineering (female) ...	2 00	3 60	5 00
Labourers (Carrier) ...	Rubber Milling (male)	5 00	7 57	10 50
Labourers ...	Building Construction (male) ...	4 25	4 70	7 00
Labourers ...	Building Construction (female) ...	4 00	4 25	5 00
Carriers ...	Rubber Packing (male)	3 75	5 20	6 00
Checkers, Testers and Sorters ...	Rubber Packing (male)	3 50	4 30	5 00
Checkers, Testers and Sorters ...	Rubber Packing (female)	2 20	2 60	4 40
Machine Attendants	Cold Drinks Manufac- turing (male) ...	3 40	4 96	6 40
Machine Attendants	Cold Drinks Manufac- turing (female) ...	1 70	2 64	4 05
Carriers ...	Sawmills (male) ...	2 66	4 43	10 00

Hours of Work

The July 1955 survey showed that the average weekly hours of work for all manual workers for the principal industries was 49.98. This represents a decrease of about 0.50 hours over the general average for 1954. About half the workers had a working week in the range from 46 to 50 hours a week.

Under the old Labour Ordinance no labourers could be compelled to work more than six days in a week, more than 6 consecutive hours at a time nor more than 9 hours a day of actual labour. Under the 1955 Labour Ordinance which came into force on 1st December, no workman can be compelled to work more than 6 consecutive hours at a time nor more than 8 hours a day of actual labour or more than 44 hours in one week. Shorter hours are laid down for children and young persons.

The 1955 sample survey of 460 undertakings showed that 85 per cent of them were working a standard 8-hour day. About 57 per cent of them paid double and 3.5 per cent of them paid time and a half for overtime work on normal working days. Of the remainder some were paying piece rates, others never worked overtime and had no special arrangements whilst the rest paid for overtime at rates less than time and a half. About 41 per cent of the undertakings paid double and 8.3 per cent of them paid time and a half for working on Sundays and public holidays. For 72 per cent of them a 6-day working week was the standard, and although 15 per cent of them remained open for 7 days a week, they were mostly small establishments, and it was the usual practice for workers to take a day off whenever they wished. On the whole, most workers have been enjoying a 6-day week, 8-hour day and overtime at the rate of time and a half to double. Under the new Labour Ordinance no worker may be paid less than double for work on his rest day or less than time and a half for overtime.

Under the new Labour Ordinance, as under the old, a workman is entitled to a paid holiday (or double wages in lieu) on each of the eleven scheduled public holidays in the year. By agreement between the employer and the worker, any other days may be substituted for the scheduled days. However, in the new Ordinance, in addition to paid scheduled holidays, a workman is entitled to 7 days' paid leave for every 12 months' continuous service with the same employer. Further, every workman who has served an

employer for a period of not less than 12 months after the coming into force of the new Ordinance is entitled to (an aggregate) of 28 days' paid sick leave in a year.

Night work is uncommon and usually found regularly only in public utility undertakings and bakeries. The one notable exception is a textile factory which has found working conditions at night very suitable. In other industries night work is carried on periodically, e.g. aerated water factories and tailoring establishments during the Chinese New Year and pineapple factories during the season. No women or young persons are permitted to work at night.

Under the Weekly Holidays Ordinance all shops, with a few exceptions, are required to close for one whole day in a week, and employees must be given a full day's holiday every week. Over 16,680 shops are covered by this Ordinance, 68 per cent of which close on Sundays. Compliance with the Ordinance is generally satisfactory. Attempts at evasion are checked on by Labour Officers and offenders prosecuted. In 1955, 249 convictions were recorded as against 250 in 1954.

Cost of Living

SINGAPORE COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS (1939=100)

<i>Higher Income Groups Standard</i>				<i>Weights 1939</i>	<i>Dec. 1954</i>	<i>June 1955</i>	<i>Dec. 1955</i>
All items	...	...	...	100.0	233.0	234.2	237.6
Food and Groceries	...	...	...	15.9	335.5	328.0	335.1
Liquors, Aerated Waters and Tobacco	...	...	...	6.1	279.2	280.0	297.8
Servants	...	...	...	17.0	279.7	279.7	279.7
Light and Water	...	...	...	2.4	133.1	133.1	133.1
Transport	...	...	...	6.1	202.1	204.9	210.0
Education	...	...	...	21.2	173.3	183.2	183.8
Clothing	...	...	...	7.8	333.3	334.0	334.4
Recreation	...	...	...	7.5	221.0	221.4	230.5
Rent	...	...	...	16.0	126.9	126.9	126.9

Clerical Workers Standard

All items	...	...	...	100.0	315.1	308.2	312.1
Food and Groceries	...	...	...	39.1	432.5	415.3	424.2
Tobacco	...	...	...	2.7	300.0	300.0	300.0
Servants	...	...	...	12.5	279.6	279.6	279.6
Light and Water	...	...	...	4.5	174.0	178.9	174.0
Transport	...	...	...	8.4	202.1	204.9	210.0
Education	...	...	...	8.7	196.9	188.9	191.0
Clothing	...	...	...	8.1	524.0	524.6	525.2
Rent	...	...	...	16.0	116.2	116.2	116.2

AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL PRICES
(selected foodstuffs)

Article	Unit	Annual Average 1939	Annual Average 1954	Monthly Average June 1955	Monthly Average Dec. 1955
		\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Beef, stew or curry ...	Kati	0 31	1 64	1 55	1 55
Mutton ...	lb.	0 52	1 35	1 35	1 35
Pork (1st quality) ...	Kati	0 36	2 19	2 10	2 03
Fowls ..	"	0 32	1 72	1 50	1 79
Fowl's eggs ...	10	0 28	1 42	1 23	1 29
Fish, kurau ...	Kati	0 40	2 71	1 78	2 05
Fish, merah (snapper) ...	"	0 31	0 69	0 58	0 77
Fish, tenggiri (Spanish Mackerel) ...	"	0 28	1 42	1 68	1 92
Beans, long ...	"	0 08	0 31	0 32	0 30
Beetroot ...	"	0 12	0 45	0 46	0 41
Cabbage ...	"	0 08	0 39	0 50	0 36
Carrots ...	"	0 11	0 43	0 42	0 37
Spinach ...	"	0 04	0 23	0 22	0 20
Bananas (pisang hijau) ...	10	0 10	0 70	0 60	0 60
Limes, small ...	Kati	0 05	0 22	0 30	0 25
Papaya ...	"	0 05	0 20	0 29	0 27
Onions, large ...	"	0 06	0 23	0 23	0 22
Coconut oil ...	"	0 08	0 63	0 58	0 58
Lard ...	"	0 24	1 07	0 75	0 80
Rice* ...	"	—	0 28	0 22	0 22
Sugar* ...	"	0 07	0 25	0 24	0 24

The Kati, variously spelt, is 1½ Imperial pounds.

* The prices for rice and sugar for 1939 are Government controlled prices of a Government ration. 1954 and June and December 1955 are free market prices.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The policy of the Government is to foster the growth of healthy trade unions and assist whenever possible in establishing negotiating machinery. The services of a Trade Union Adviser are available if required. Trade Unions are required to register under the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1940 and a Registry of Trade Unions forms part of the Labour Department. For those industries which possess inadequate negotiating machinery of their own the Wages Councils Ordinance of 1953 provides for minimum wages and conditions of employment to be laid down by wages councils when this is shown by formal enquiry to be necessary. If a dispute arises which cannot be settled by negotiation or conciliation, the Commissioner for Labour can, with the consent of both parties, refer the matter under the Industrial Courts Ordinance of 1940 either to the Industrial Court or to arbitration for settlement.

TRADE UNIONS

During the year, the number of registered unions of employees increased from 136 to 187 and their membership from 76,452 to 139,317; the number of employers' unions increased from 45 to 49, accompanied by a slight increase in membership from 5,289 to 5,795. One federation of trade unions was registered, bringing the number of federations to five. In addition, there were 3 unions whose applications for registration were pending at the end of the year. Members of employees' unions who were in benefit were estimated to be 74 per cent of the total. Ten unions were removed from the register. Of these, 4 went into voluntary dissolution, 3 were found to have ceased to exist, 2 amalgamated together as one union and were issued with a new certificate, and the tenth was removed on the ground that it had wilfully, and after notice from the Registrar, contravened the provisions of the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1940.

1955 was a year of several noteworthy events in trade union development in Singapore. A record number of unions of workers employed in European business houses was established; hitherto, workers in this field showed little interest in trade unions. More and more small unions came into existence to compete with one another and with general unions that cater for the same workers. The most spectacular development was in the Singapore Factory and Shop Workers' Union, the membership of which rose from 372 to 29,959 in ten months. The Trades Union Congress continued to make progress; the number of affiliated unions increased from 24 to 43.

According to the audited accounts, income and expenditure for 1954-55 of 130 employees' unions (including four federations) were \$721,062.23 and \$591,335.02 and those of 45 employers' unions were \$424,535.88 and \$399,562.91 respectively. Income of employees' unions was derived mainly from contributions and voluntary donations; expenditure was incurred on establishment expenses \$124,774.50 (21.1 per cent), salaries and allowances of officers \$66,178.07 (11.1 per cent), stationery, printing and postage \$34,970.52 (5.1 per cent), auditors' fees \$13,155 (2.5 per cent), trade disputes, legal expenses and compensation \$19,106.28 (3.5 per cent), social, educational, sporting and charitable activities \$75,645.04 (13.5 per cent) and 'other outgoings' \$107,598.84 (17.8 per cent).

Below are tables showing the growth of employees' unions and the distribution of union members by industries:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Unions formed during year</i>	<i>Unions dissolved or cancell- ed during year</i>	<i>Unions remain- ing at end of year</i>	<i>Member- ship at end of year</i>
1946 ...	8	—	8	18,673
1947 ...	118	—	126	96,060
1948 ...	10	18	118	74,367
1949 ...	9	34	93	47,301
1950 ...	6	8	91	48,595
1951 ...	18	2	107	58,322
1952 ...	19	4	122	65,831
1953 ...	20	9	133	73,566
1954 ...	12	9	136	76,452
1955 ...	61	10	187	139,317

<i>Industrial Division</i>	<i>Unions of Employers</i>		<i>Unions of Employees</i>	
	<i>No. of Unions</i>	<i>Member- ship</i>	<i>No. of Unions</i>	<i>Member- ship</i>
Mining and quarrying ...	—	—	1	366
Manufacturing ...	14	626	38	23,575
Construction ...	1	75	6	3,141
Electricity, Gas, Water and Sanitary Services ...	—	—	6	4,415
Commerce ...	15	1,377	25	9,268
Transport, Storage and Communications ...	9	1,857	48	27,403
Services ...	9	1,815	55	34,818
Mixed ...	1	45	8	36,331
Total ...	49	5,795	187	139,317

Joint Consultation

The Singapore Civil Service Joint Council, modelled on the United Kingdom Whitley Council as a permanent negotiating body for all categories of Government servants, continued to function throughout the year, and the principle was extended to the establishment of departmental committees in several Government Departments. Other joint consultative committees with permanent constitutions represent employers and employees in the three Armed Services, the lightering industry and the Singapore Harbour Board. One of the terms in the settlement of a dispute which resulted in a strike and then a lock-out in ten Chinese bus companies at the end of the year—an industry that had recently been

plagued with strikes—including provision for the establishment of a joint consultative committee consisting of representatives from the Chinese Bus Owners' Association and the Singapore Bus Workers' Union. Initial steps were taken to establish standing negotiating machinery in several other industries.

Trade Disputes

The year 1955 not only saw an increase in the number of new trade unions and trade union membership, but also an increase in industrial disputes and man-days lost which surpassed the previous record of 1946. The following table shows the man-days lost by strikes since 1946:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Man-days lost</i>	<i>Estimated number of persons gainfully employed</i>	<i>Man-days lost per person per annum</i>
1946	851,937	357,270	2.38
1947	492,708	357,270	1.38
1948	128,657	366,640	0.35
1949	6,618	373,843	0.02
1950	4,692	386,999	0.01
1951	20,640	396,975	0.05
1952	40,105	410,322	0.10
1953	47,361	425,895	0.11
1954	135,206	433,000	0.31
1955	946,354	440,000	2.15

An analysis of the causes of the 275 strikes and lock-outs in 1955 is as follows:—

<i>Wages</i>	<i>Dismissal Retrenchment only</i>	<i>General Con- ditions of Employment</i>	<i>Sympathy</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>
90	13	7	135	30

The first three months of the year were comparatively quiet, and it was only after the election of the Labour Front Coalition Government, with its promise of a better deal for labour, that activity in industrial disputes was stimulated. There had been for some years a comparatively quiet period in industrial relations but employees were quick to seize on the changed political scene to organise themselves in a more militant way to obtain increased wages and better conditions of employment. Unfortunately, the possibilities of this new turbulence in industrial relations were not lost on a small and unruly section of the population, who took the opportunity to pursue a policy of agitation and violence, reaching its climax in riots resulting from the Hock Lee Bus Company dispute in which four people lost their lives.

The general state of excitability of employees, in many instances stimulated by over-fervent oratory, tended to make any approach to a settlement through negotiation or conciliation more difficult. In many instances, strikes were called before negotiations had commenced, and in some even when there were signs of a settlement in view. The achievements of strike action were sometimes little or no improvement on what had already been achieved by previous negotiations; as a result of a few strikes workers suffered loss of employment. On the other hand, employers were often slow to give recognition either to a union itself or to the legitimacy of its claims, and this naturally exacerbated any chance of a peaceful settlement.

Any assessment or analysis of the year's unrest must take cognisance of the fact that only 97 strikes out of a total of 275 were due to claims over wages and conditions of employment, and strikes in 91 establishments were of a purely politically coercive nature called by a group of unions, the dominant one being the Singapore Factory and Shop Workers' Union, in protest against the arrest of eight trade unionists under the Emergency Regulations in June. The remaining sympathy strikes were called by the same group of unions in protest over police action in the early stages of the Hock Lee Bus Company dispute, and later in sympathy with striking employees at a rubber factory whose dispute had been outstanding for many weeks.

Despite the high record of strikes and of man-days lost, it must not be thought that it was only through strike action that improved conditions of employment resulted. Many agreements were negotiated freely between employers and unions, in some cases direct and in other cases through the offices of the Labour Department. In no single dispute did the parties agree to refer their outstanding differences to arbitration or the Industrial Court. In three disputes the Minister for Labour and Welfare intervened and appointed a Court of Inquiry. The first was for the Hock Lee Bus Company dispute in May, in which other events overtook proceedings and the Court was terminated before completing its report. The second dispute involved Singapore Workers' Union and three hotels; the parties reached a settlement outside the Court. The third Court of Inquiry was set up in December in connection with the strike at the Singapore Traction Company, called by the Employees' Union on the 27th September. This Court was still sitting at the end of the year.

Apart from the bus industry, places of employment principally affected by strikes were factories and industrial establishments. The 10,000 strong Federation of City Council Labour Unions went on a 16-day strike, principally over matters arising out of their strike in 1954. For the first time in Singapore, clerical grades went on strike when the Singapore Harbour Board Staff Association called a strike that lasted for over two months.

It was noteworthy, however, that towards the end of the year the tempo of industrial unrest had slowed down considerably, and the only unsettled dispute of importance, involving the Singapore Traction Company, had been referred to a Court of Inquiry.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The more modern factories in Singapore (some of which belong to associated companies of parent establishments in the United Kingdom and America) are well-designed and compare favourably with those in the most industrially advanced countries in the world. Safety, lighting, ventilation, first-aid and welfare facilities are of a high standard. However, the majority of industrial establishments in Singapore are small, often located on the ground floor of shop-houses and in areas where expansion is not possible. Standards are often low. It is expected that with the Master Plan for the Island, as old buildings are demolished, industrial establishments will move to industrial zones, and modern factory conditions can be introduced.

Officers of the Labour Department make regular inspections of all establishments employing manual workers, and the working conditions are examined for contravention of the Labour, Workmen's Compensation and Children and Young Persons Ordinances. Suggestions for improvement of working conditions are generally well received. In 1955 over 2,500 establishments were inspected by Labour Officers.

During the year arrangements were made with the United Kingdom Services for a Labour Officer to inspect working conditions of civilian employees of Service establishments. The working conditions in these establishments compare favourably with the most up-to-date establishments in Singapore.

Factory Safety

Over 3,500 installations, including boilers and steam engines, internal combustion engines, gas holders and vulcanisers were inspected by Inspector of Machinery. The main object of these

inspections is the safety, health and welfare of workers through the prevention of accidents endangering life and property in work places. Assistance is provided in the introduction, design, manufacture and use of safety appliances in factories. All serious accidents through machinery are investigated to ascertain the cause and prevent recurrence. In some cases, where provisions of the Machinery Ordinance have been contravened and safety instructions wilfully disregarded, court proceedings are instituted. There were nine such successful prosecutions in 1955. Certificates of competency permitting the holders to operate steam and internal combustion plants are also issued, after examinations, to ensure that the operation of engines is in the hands of competent persons.

Standards of safety are steadily improving. Employers and employees alike have been found more safety-conscious, and the introduction of newer machinery with modern safety devices is helping in this process. Following the report of a committee set up to enquire into Industrial and Commercial Safety Controls and Inspectorate of Dangerous Materials was instituted at the beginning of this year. This Inspectorate is investigating the incidence of hazards of injury and ill-health arising from commercial and industrial activities in various contexts, including those to workmen engaged in different trades and occupations in Singapore.

Workmen's Compensation

Compensation is payable by employers to workmen who suffer industrial injuries or death caused by accident or industrial disease. A new Workmen's Compensation Ordinance came into force on 30th April. Its scope is wider; it gives larger benefits to disabled workmen or the dependants of deceased workmen and also covers civilian employees working in United Kingdom Service establishments. Most cases are settled by agreement, but when an employee's claim is not admitted by the employer it is adjudicated upon by the arbitrator. In hearings before the arbitrator the injured workman or his dependant is usually represented by an officer of the Labour Department, which also administers the monies involved. In 1955 \$328,937 was paid to injured workmen and their dependants, including \$8,093 by the U.K. Services. The increasing number of cases reported indicates that workmen and employers are more conscious of their rights and obligations and is also a reflection of the wider scope of the new Ordinance.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT—1952 TO 1955

	<i>Number of Cases</i>			
	1952	1953	1954	1955
Fatal accidents	40	35	54	57
Permanent disablement (over 20% disablement)	36	24	50	26
Permanent disablement (under 20%)	65	71	98	148
Temporary disablement	2,000	3,162	3,576	4,173
Total	<u>2,841</u>	<u>3,292</u>	<u>3,778</u>	<u>4,404</u>

Welfare

The Government, City Council, Harbour Board and some other large undertakings have officers under various titles with particular responsibilities for the welfare of the staff. Regular visits to places of work and living quarters, following by on-the-spot investigations into complaints, have helped materially to improve the welfare of workers and to prevent disputes.

A most important welfare consideration is the housing of workers. The Government, the City Council, the Singapore Harbour Board, the Singapore Improvement Trust and many private employers provide houses for a large proportion of their workers (see Chapter VIII). However, the provision of housing is now conceded to be mainly a problem not for employers but for the community as a whole. Much remains to be carried out in future and a Master Plan for the development of the whole island to include the location of new industries and the housing of workers has been prepared.

By the Seats for Shop Assistants Ordinance it has been made compulsory for shopkeepers to provide seats for their assistants. As a result of earlier abuses particular care is taken of children between the ages of 12 and 17 taking part in public entertainment; they are required to hold licences under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance. The theatres, wayangs, cafes and cabarets where they are employed are frequently inspected by Labour Department officers. At the end of the year there were nearly 300 child entertainers, mostly Chinese, under regular supervision. No cases of serious ill-treatment were discovered.

The 1955 Labour Ordinance also provides for the registration of young workers in industrial establishments specified by the Minister and empowers him to stipulate minimum wages for children and young persons generally. It provides many other

benefits for workers not enumerated above, including enhanced paid maternity leave for female workers for the months immediately before and after childbirth, paid sick leave and paid annual leave in addition to the statutory paid 11 holidays, and so forth.

A Central Provident Fund established by law in 1953 came into operation on 1st July. Under this scheme lump sum retiring benefits are assured for contributors on retirement, normally at the age of 55. If an employee dies, contributions and accumulated interest are payable to his dependants. Domestic employees will be covered by the scheme from January 1956. Employees and their employers are required to contribute equally to the Fund sums amounting to 5 per cent of wages, subject to a maximum of \$25 per month on each side, but for those employees earning \$200 or less per month only employers are liable to contribute. The Fund gives a guaranteed minimum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest per annum on balances. By the end of the year the Fund had registered 12,300 employers and 190,000 employees, and contributions amounting to \$9 millions had been received. Besides these contributors, there are a considerable number of employees who are entitled to retirement benefits under approved schemes which already existed at the time the Ordinance came into force. Such schemes have been permitted to continue if they are not less favourable to employees than the Central Provident Fund.

IV

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

THE FINANCIAL position of the Colony over the period 1949–1953 has been satisfactory. The increase in the price of rubber and tin and the increase in trade which resulted from the outbreak of the Korean War enabled substantial surpluses to be accumulated. In 1953, it was decided to create a Special Reserve of \$100 millions by adding surplus funds to the existing Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund, the intention being to create a reserve equivalent to six months revenue which would be the sheet anchor of the Colony's finances and serve as a revenue equalisation reserve. At the same time, a sum of \$50 millions was specifically allocated to development. At the present time, the Special Reserve stands at approximately \$97 millions. The Development Reserve has been partially utilised in the implementation of development plans. The General Revenue Balance is \$138 millions but, as will be seen from the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, some \$112 millions of this Balance is bound up in long term loans to the Singapore Improvement Trust, the Federation of Malaya Government and other bodies.

The peak year for revenue was 1953 when total revenue amounted to \$238.5 millions as compared with \$137 millions in 1949 and \$175.6 millions in 1951. Thereafter however revenue has declined to \$207.3 millions in 1954 and \$208.1 millions in 1955. The decrease was mainly due to the fall in the world market price of rubber and tin since 1953, and the trading restrictions imposed on the Colony's trade by her main entrepôt neighbours. In 1954, the Colony showed a deficit for the first time since the war. This deficit, however, was due to items of special expenditure of an extraordinary nature, for example, \$14.5 millions for the acquisition of the Singapore Oriental Telephone & Electric Co. and \$36.4 millions in settlement of the Federation of Malaya and North Borneo shares of the Straits Settlements assets. Nevertheless, the reduced

surplus of \$9 millions in 1955 as compared with \$68.8 millions in 1953 is a significant indication of the changed circumstances of the Colony's public finances. Revenue is now levelling off but expenditure is increasing rapidly as development plans are implemented.

Income tax is perhaps the most important source of revenue. During 1955, collections which had been estimated at \$70 millions only realised \$57.8 millions comparing with \$72.5 millions in 1954 and \$87.2 millions in 1953. This short fall, which was due to the trade recession in 1954 was to a certain extent offset by increased collections of customs duties and other items of revenue so bringing total revenue up to the estimated total of \$208 millions. Customs duties are collected on liquor, petroleum and tobacco which together fetched \$70 millions thus maintaining the average level achieved since 1952. In 1954, they totalled together \$70.2 millions, in 1953 \$71.0 millions and in 1952 \$69.8 millions. In 1955, tobacco duties brought in \$33.8 millions, liquor \$23.2 millions and petroleum \$18.3 millions against \$33.2 millions, \$20.9 millions and \$16.1 millions respectively in 1954. Of the remaining items of revenue, entertainments duty amounted to \$5.2 millions, estate duty to \$6.0 millions, stamp duty to \$2.0 millions and totalisator bets and sweepstakes to \$3.9 millions. Except for estate duty which increased from an average annual collection of \$4 millions to \$6 millions in 1955, the other items of revenue have remained very close to the average level for each item since 1952.

Expenditure has increased continuously from \$97.1 millions in 1950 to the peak of \$248.9 millions in 1954. However, estimated expenditure for 1955 was put at \$214.8 millions but actual expenditure was lower by about \$15 millions at \$199.1 millions. This was mainly due to delay in the construction of vessels for the Royal Malayan Navy and other under expenditure on Defence Services estimates. Total expenditure on defence was estimated at \$29.4 millions whereas actual expenditure amounted to \$9.8 millions. Expenditure on Medical and Health services amounted to \$22.3 millions compared with \$20.1 millions in 1954 and \$16.6 millions in 1953. Expenditure on Education totalled \$30.1 millions against \$24.1 millions in 1954 and \$17.4 millions in 1953. Postal services and telecommunications together cost \$13 millions compared with \$14 millions in 1954 and \$11.5 millions in 1953.

During the year 347 applications for supplementary provision totalling \$33.6 millions were approved by the Legislative Assembly.

The provision included about \$5 millions for the development and construction of the Singapore Airport, \$2 millions for the transfer-of leave reserve posts resulting from the break up of the Malayan Establishment and approximately \$6 millions and \$4 millions for additional Education and Medical services.

Previous to 1955 capital expenditure was shown in the ordinary estimates of revenue and expenditure, provision being made under the Head: Public Works Non-Recurrent. Expenditure under this item was \$6.6 millions in 1951, \$8.1 millions in 1952, \$10.0 millions in 1953 and \$14.6 millions in 1954. In 1955, however, Special Development Estimates were drawn up and provision was made for expenditure amounting to \$60.5 millions partly from revenue, partly from Development Reserve and partly from Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. The original estimate of \$60.5 millions for 1955 was not achieved and actual expenditure fell short by \$22.6 millions leaving a balance of \$29 millions in the Development Reserve Fund for future use. Under-expenditure was in the main due to difficulties in obtaining and clearing sites for construction and in delays in the delivery of essential materials. The main development expenditure was for medical and educational services.

The following table shows the financial position of the Colony over the past three years:—

	1953	1954	1955
	\$	\$	\$
Revenue ...	238,518,829	207,297,524	208,102,190
Expenditure ...	169,730,549	248,919,571	199,097,907
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus ...	68,788,280	Deficit ... 41,622,047	Surplus ... 9,004,283
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Full details of the revenue and expenditure figures in respect of 1953, 1954 and 1955 are given in the comparative statement on pages 54 and 55.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Under the new Constitution, the Financial Secretary is the *ex-officio* Minister of Finance. His Ministry is responsible for the main revenue collecting departments of Income Tax, Customs and Excise, Estate Duty and Stamp Duty and for the accounting of the public funds of the Colony.

Before the beginning of each financial year, the Financial Secretary introduces the Annual Appropriation Bill into the Legislative Assembly. The Bill is debated in the Committee of the whole Assembly before it is passed. During the ensuing financial year, whenever supplementary provision is required financial motions are placed before the Assembly. These motions are debated in Committee of Supply and passed by the Assembly. The supplementary votes approved are subsequently incorporated in a Final Appropriation Bill which is introduced as soon as possible after the end of the year.

Provision exists for an Estimates Committee of the Legislative Assembly comprising a Chairman, appointed by the Speaker, and not more than five members nominated by the Committee of Selection. The function of this Committee is to examine the estimates of expenditure contained in the schedule of the Appropriation Bill and to suggest the form in which they might be presented or to report on any economies consistent with Government policy which might be affected. The Estimates Committee is not a policy making body and is only concerned with the details of expenditure.

Expenditure, sanctioned by the Appropriation Bill and financial motions, made during the year is audited at the end of the year by the Director of Audit. The accounts of expenditure and the Report of the Director of Audit are then examined by the Public Accounts Committee whose duty it is to examine the accounts to ascertain that expenditure has been properly incurred in accordance with the Estimates and that full value has been obtained for sums voted to departments.

PUBLIC DEBT

The total Public Debt of the Colony is small and adequate provision continues to be made to service it. The General Reserve Balance as at the 31st December was estimated to be \$138.2 millions, a large portion of which is immobilised in the form of long term loans to the Singapore Improvement Trust and the Federation of Malaya and miscellaneous advances. In addition there is a Special Reserve of \$97.8 millions and a Development Reserve of \$31 millions. Provision for sinking funds and payment of interest in 1955 amounted to \$6.48 millions which is about 3 per cent of the total revenue of the Colony. No loans were raised by the Singapore Government during the year. A statement of assets and liabilities appears on pages 56 and 57.

PUBLIC LOANS

	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Interest payable</i>
	\$	
(i) S.S. 3% Loan 1962/72 ...	30,000,000	15th April 15th October
(ii) S.S. 3% War Loan 1952/59 ...	25,000,000	April—October
(iii) S.S. 3% War Loan 1953/60 ...	10,000,000	15th January 15th July
<hr/>		
Total S.S. ...	65,000,000	
(iv) Singapore 3% Rehabilitation Loan 1962/72 ...	50,000,000	15th January 15th July
<hr/>		
Total S.S. and Singapore ...	115,000,000	

- (i) Repayable by Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards by whom charges for interest and sinking fund are paid.
- (ii) and (iii), totalling \$35,000,000 represent free gifts to H. M. Government for the prosecution of the war. All charges for interest and sinking fund are met from the general revenue and assets of the Colony, but contributions are received from the Federation of Malaya and North Borneo.

TAXATION

Revenue from taxation accounts for well over 75 per cent of the Colony's total revenue, the main source being income tax and customs duties. Total receipts from these amounted to \$129.2 millions in 1955 which was 90 per cent of revenue from taxation or over 60 per cent of total revenue from all sources. The other forms of subsidiary taxation are entertainments duty, stamp duty and taxation on totalisator bets and sweepstakes, total receipts from which amounted to \$17.1 millions in 1955, an increase of \$1.9 millions over 1954.

As the main activity of the Colony is trade, receipts from taxation depend very much on the state of the Colony's overall trade. However, fluctuations in trade in one year only affect the total receipts in the following year because taxation, especially income tax, is assessed on profits earned in the preceding year. In 1951 during the Korean war boom when total overseas trade reached a post-war peak of \$7.610 millions, revenue from taxation also increased from \$82.7 millions in 1949 and \$85.2 millions in 1950 to \$129.5 millions in 1951. In 1952 it further increased to \$158.4 millions. But the full effect of the boom was not felt until 1953 when revenue from taxation reached the peak of \$173.4 millions. However, with the decline in the world price of rubber, trade begun to recede

and by 1953 stood at \$4.305 millions and, in the following year, revenue from taxation fell by \$15 millions to \$158.0 millions and in 1955 fell further to \$146.3 millions. However, with the slight improvement in trade which took place in 1955, it is probable that receipts will show an increase in 1956. The following table shows the yield from taxation for 1955 compared with 1953 and 1954.

		REVENUE FROM TAXES			
		1953	1954	1955	1955
		(Actual)	(Actual)	(Estimated)	(Actual)
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Entertainments	...	5,378,822	5,164,364	5,300,000	5,236,054
Estates	...	3,999,144	4,420,737	8,500,000	5,990,388
Income Tax	...	87,234,453	72,533,137	70,000,000	3,851,677
Liquors	...	21,522,272	20,935,822	20,000,000	23,242,669
Petroleum	...	15,124,303	16,144,911	16,000,000	18,320,504
Stamps	...	1,795,283	1,999,763	1,930,000	1,954,619
Tobacco	...	34,396,211	33,196,617	33,000,000	33,809,860
Totalisator Bets and Sweepstakes	...	3,913,854	3,618,197	3,270,000	3,909,063
Total	...	173,364,342	158,013,548	158,000,000	146,314,834

Income Tax

Income Tax was introduced in accordance with the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance on 1st of January, 1948. The department responsible for making collections is a Pan-Malayan department which is controlled in Singapore by the Comptroller of Income Tax.

The tax is levied on incomes accruing in or derived from the Colony or received in the Colony from outside sources. Companies are chargeable at the rate of 30 per cent, and resident individuals are charged on a sliding scale ranging from 3 per cent on the first \$500 of chargeable income to 30 per cent on incomes exceeding \$50,000 with personal allowances as shown on page 49. In cases where children are maintained and educated outside Malaya, these allowances may be increased up to double the amounts shown in the table. Deductions are also allowed in respect of life assurance premiums and contributions to approved pension or provident funds. Non-resident individuals are chargeable at 30 per cent without these allowances although British subjects or British

protected individuals may be entitled to a deduction of proportionate allowance. Double taxation relief arrangements are in force with the Federation of Malaya, where income tax is levied at the same rates as in the Colony, and with the United Kingdom, Sweden and Denmark.

A statutory body known as the Malayan Board of Income Tax has been constituted to advise the Governments of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya on questions of income tax policy.

RATES OF TAX ON INDIVIDUALS
(*per annum*)

<i>Chargeable Income</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>Rate of Tax</i>
On the first	500	3 per cent
On the next	500	4 per cent
On the next	500	5 per cent
On the next	500	6 per cent
On the next	1,000	7 per cent
On the next	2,000	8 per cent
On the next	2,000	10 per cent
On the next	3,000	12 per cent
On the next	5,000	15 per cent
On the next	35,000	20 per cent
On every dollar exceeding 50,000		30 per cent

PERSONAL ALLOWANCES
(*per annum*)

	<i>\$</i>
Unmarried person	3,000
Married couple	5,000
Married couple with 1 child	5,750
Married couple with 2 children	6,250
Married couple with 3 children	6,750
Married couple with 4 children	7,050
Married couple with 5 children	7,350
Thereafter \$200 per child up to a maximum of	8,150

Entertainment Duties

The Entertainments Duty Ordinance was brought into force on 1st January, 1952 and the Comptroller of Customs is responsible, as Comptroller of Entertainments Duty, for the collection of duties

prescribed by the Ordinance. The basic rates of duty have remained unchanged since 1946 (when this duty was leviable by Proclamation) but sports and "live" drama and music are now charged duty at half the basic rates.

SCALE OF ENTERTAINMENT DUTIES

Where the payment for admission (including the amount of duty) does not exceed 10 cents	...	...	none
exceeds 10 cents but does not exceed 20 cents	...	...	5 cents
exceeds 20 cents but does not exceed 30 cents	...	...	10 "
exceeds 30 cents but does not exceed 50 cents	...	...	15 "
exceeds 50 cents but does not exceed \$1	...	...	25 "
exceeds \$1 but does not exceed \$1.50	...	...	40 "

and thereafter an additional 20 cents of entertainment duty for every increase of 50 cents in payment for admission.

Only half the above rates are charged for 'live' entertainments such as stage shows and musical performances. Amateur sporting, musical and dramatic entertainments are wholly exempted from the payment of duty.

Customs Duties

Singapore is a free port and customs duties are collected only on intoxicating liquors, tobacco and petroleum intended for domestic consumption. All other goods enter free.

Duties on intoxicating liquors are imposed in accordance with the scale shown below. Apart from full and preferential duties on imported liquors for local consumption, there are excise duties on intoxicating liquors distilled locally, or prepared in bond and released for local consumption. Samsu, beer and stout are the only intoxicating liquors made locally.

The scale of duty on tobacco, kerosene, rectified spirit, bitters, liqueurs, rum, gin and sparkling wines remained the same throughout the year but the rates of duty on petrol, brandy, whisky, samsu and malt liquors were increased with effect from 9th November. The scale of duties is shown on page 51. The duty on petroleum is seventy-three cents per gallon while a duty of five cents per gallon is levied on kerosene. Although no duties are charged on heavy oils, a special tax is levied under the provisions of the Petroleum Revenue Ordinance on mechanically propelled vehicles using such oils.

CUSTOMS TARIFF

DUTIES ON INTOXICATING LIQUORS

				Duties			
				Unit	Full	Prefer- ential	Excise
					\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
1. Rectified spirit	...	...	p.g.	52 50	—	—
2. Brandy	...	...	p.g.	76 90	69 20	—
3. Brandy in bottle not exceeding 81 per cent proof spirit	...	...	g.	60 00	54 00	—
4. Rum and Gin	...	...	p.g.	52 50	—	—
5. Rum and Gin in bottle not exceeding 81 per cent proof spirit	...	...	g.	37 50	—	—
6. Whisky	...	...	p.g.	76 90	—	—
7. Whisky in bottle not exceeding 81 per cent proof spirit	...	...	g.	60 00	—	—
8. Other intoxicating liquors	...	...	p.g.	76 90	—	43 75
9. Toddy-arrak, Saki, Pineapple spirit and Samsu (including Medicated Samsu)	...	...	p.g.	31 00	—	27 00
10. Bitters and Liqueurs not exceeding 100 per cent proof spirit	...	...	g.	52 50	—	—
11. Sparkling wines not exceeding 42 per cent proof spirit	...	...	g.	40 00	30 00	—
12. Still wines exceeding 26 per cent but not exceeding 42 per cent proof spirit	...	...	g.	18 75	15 00	—
13. Still wines not exceeding 26 per cent proof spirit	...	...	g.	9 40	7 50	—
14. Ale, Beer, Stout, Porter, Cider and Perry	...	...	g.	5 20	4 80	4 80

p.g. = proof gallon; g. = imperial gallon, the standard of liquid measure in the Colony.

During 1954 legislation was passed enabling officers and men on the active lists of the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, the Singapore Military Forces and the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force to obtain, under certain conditions, duty free ale, beer, stout, porter, cider and perry.

DUTIES ON TOBACCO

			Unit	Duties	
				Full	Preferential
				\$ c.	\$ c.
1. Cigars and snuff	...	...	per lb.	11 00	10 00
2. Cigarettes	...	...	per lb.	6 70	6 20
3. Unmanufactured tobacco	...	...	per lb.	4 40	4 20
4. Manufactured tobacco — imported in containers of any kind for retail sale to the public	...	...	per lb.	6 90	6 70
5. Manufactured tobacco — (excluding cigars, cigarettes and snuff) not otherwise provided for	...	...	per lb.	2 50	—

(The imperial pound is the standard measure of weight in the Colony).

The Customs Department of Singapore is divided into three branches concerned respectively with revenue collection, the prevention of smuggling and special investigation. The organisation of the Special Investigations Branch includes the Central Narcotics Intelligence Bureau which acts as a clearing house for information on the illicit international traffic in narcotic drugs in the Far East. Six sub-stations and nineteen examination stations as well as bonded warehouses for the storage of dutiable tobacco and liquors are maintained.

Analytical work required by the Customs Department, mainly in connection with the assessment of duty on intoxicating liquors and petroleum, is carried out by the Department of Chemistry.

The prevention of smuggling by the Customs Department is described on pages 166 and 167.

Estate Duty

Estate duty is payable on the capital value of all property which passes or is deemed to pass on death.

The rates were revised under the Estate Duty (Increase of Rates) Ordinance, 1955, so that estates under \$10,000 are exempt from duty. The previous exemption limit had been \$1,000. However, the rates in the higher ranges were raised but in such a manner as to make a smoother curve in the progression of the graduations. The form of graduated scale obviates the need for special provisions for marginal relief.

In 1955 the total revenue from estate duty collected was \$5,990,388 as against the sum of \$4,420,737 collected in 1954.

Further information on the administration of estates is given on pages 155 and 156.

Duties on Totalisator Bets and Sweepstakes

Duties in respect of totalisator bets are collected at the rate of 10 per cent. For sweepstakes the rate of duty is 20 per cent. The combined revenue of \$3.9 millions for the year 1955, all of which was received from the Singapore Turf Club, was made up as follows:—

		\$	c.
(a) Duty on totalisator bets ...	...	940,951	50
(b) Duty on sweepstakes ...	...	2,968,111	65
		<hr/>	
Total ...	...	3,909,063	15
		<hr/>	

Private lotteries are also controlled and duty at the rate of 20 per cent is payable by the promoters who are required to obtain permits from the Financial Secretary. Two hundred and twenty-eight permits were granted during the year and revenue amounting to \$231,435 was collected.

Corporations Duty

Corporation duty is imposed by way of compensation to the revenue for the non-liability to estate duty of certain property belonging to or vested in bodies corporate or unincorporate. Its collection is governed by the provisions of the Corporations Duty Ordinance (Chapter 229).

The duty is 3 per cent on the net annual value, income or profits of all movable or immovable property held by such bodies after deducting all necessary outgoings, charges and expenses properly incurred in the management of such property.

The amount collected during the year was \$17,918 from 102 bodies compared to \$25,138 from 118 bodies in 1954.

Stamp Duties

Stamp duties are payable on a wide range of commercial and legal documents specified in the Stamp Ordinance. In some cases the rate of duty is fixed, as on an agreement or statutory declaration; in others it is an *ad valorem* rate, such as on the amount of the consideration money in a conveyance of property or on the amount secured in a mortgage. In certain cases, it is obligatory to use impressed stamps which can be obtained only from the Stamp Office; in other cases ordinary postage stamps may be used.

Seventeen licences to use franking machines for payment of duty on cheques, bills of exchange and receipts were granted during the year. There were no increases in stamp duties during the year.

GOVERNMENT OF

REVENUE HEAD		1953	1954	1955
		\$	\$	\$
Class I				
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified:—				
(a)	Entertainments Duty	5,378,822	5,164,364	5,236,054
(b)	Estate Duties	3,999,144	4,420,737	5,990,388
(c)	Income Tax	103,216,653*	56,550,937†	57,779,554‡
(d)	Liquors	21,522,272	20,935,822	23,242,669
(e)	Petroleum Revenue	15,124,303	16,144,911	18,320,504
(f)	Stamp Duties	1,795,283	1,999,763	1,954,619
(g)	Tobacco Duties	34,396,211	33,196,617	33,809,860
(h)	Totalisator and Sweepstakes	3,913,854	3,618,197	3,909,063
(i)	Others	6,502,904	6,426,190	7,196,677
Total ..		195,849,446	148,457,538	157,439,388
Class II				
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-aid				
		11,855,101	12,394,053	14,267,126
Class III				
Posts and Telecommunications		13,582,072	14,437,010	15,895,048
Class IV				
Rents		2,943,822	6,425,640	5,621,665
Interests:—				
(a)	Interest on Investments	4,129,581	2,156,391	1,436,358
(b)	Interest from Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	1,927,573	435,473	—
(c)	Others	2,070,860	2,092,720	2,834,550
Total ..		11,071,836	11,110,224	9,892,573
Class V				
Miscellaneous Receipts		5,010,991	13,357,377	9,907,575
Land Sales and Premia on Grants		67,428	1,001,713	790,079
		5,078,419	14,359,090	10,697,654
Class VI				
Grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act		1,081,954	6,539,609	641,378
Total ..		238,518,828	207,297,524	208,833,167

* Includes \$15,982,200 collected on behalf of the Federation of Malaya.

† Excludes \$15,982,200 collected on behalf of the Federation in 1953 and paid in 1954 as a revenue debit.

‡ Includes \$3,927,877 collected on behalf of the Federation of Malaya.

SINGAPORE

EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE HEAD	1953	1954	1955
	\$	\$	\$
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ..	5,950,000	5,950,000	6,480,000
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities etc. ..	6,509,338	6,805,850	7,408,889
3. Charitable Allowances and Contributions ..	390,601	513,420	684,277
4. Commissioner-General ..	593,654	574,166	554,671
5. Governor ..	279,845	373,393	327,824
6. Chief Secretary ..	1,731,122	2,030,917	2,287,787
Agriculture (now included under Commerce and Industry) ..	42,381	—	—
7. Audit ..	472,805	481,311	489,661
8. Broadcasting ..	2,765,474	3,036,337	3,114,326
9. Chemistry ..	226,511	272,050	378,209
10. Chinese Secretariat ..	244,405	236,652	263,496
11. Civil Aviation ..	5,264,037	6,455,773	2,316,983
12. Commerce and Industry ..	235,772	3,490,613	3,541,300
13. Co-operative Development ..	54,844	—	—
14. Customs and Excise ..	2,814,150	3,077,964	3,067,140
15. Defence Services ..	7,775,161	9,387,492	9,844,970
16. Education ..	17,422,191	24,115,169	30,380,502
17. Estate Duty and Stamp Offices ..	162,098	130,500	154,531
18. Film Censorship ..	211,025	197,624	179,158
Fisheries (now included under Commerce and Industry) ..	311,095	—	—
Foreign Exchange Control (now included under Commerce and Industry) ..	286,809	—	—
Forests (now included under Commerce and Industry) ..	63,850	—	—
19. Gardens, Botanical ..	367,331	466,406	497,577
20. Immigration and Passports ..	791,909	948,919	941,890
Imports and Exports Control (now included under Commerce and Industry) ..	297,406	—	—
21. Income Tax ..	1,255,773	1,486,223	1,561,248
22. Judicial ..	1,309,987	1,558,160	1,638,188
23. Labour ..	708,562	795,605	922,860
24. Land and District Offices ..	669,701	883,188	862,025
25. Legal ..	234,086	286,772	360,544
26. Marine ..	1,125,565	—	—
27. Marine Surveys ..	153,324	—	—
28. Legislature ..	—	—	304,031
29. Medical and Health ..	16,616,731	20,099,561	22,384,538
30. Meteorological ..	671,237	784,198	788,355
31. Miscellaneous Services ..	24,971,941	72,125,735	32,265,629
32. Museum and Library, Raffles ..	216,511	272,609	306,955
33. Official Assignee and Public Trustee ..	273,085	326,172	323,786
34. Police ..	20,790,335	23,796,011	22,689,094
35. Postal Services ..	7,271,711	8,838,640	8,423,944
36. Printing Office ..	1,329,417	1,384,136	1,388,777
37. Prisons ..	1,999,911	2,554,939	2,906,733
38. Public Relations ..	396,685	456,896	584,604
39. Public Services Commission ..	94,412	102,886	103,232
40. Public Works ..	2,931,975	3,886,032	3,660,805
41. Public Works, Recurrent ..	5,091,783	6,908,797	6,824,374
42. Public Works, Non-Recurrent ..	9,988,083	14,593,787	779,471
43. Registry of Marriages ..	17,993	25,738	24,809
44. Social Welfare ..	5,483,535	7,278,142	8,694,823
45. Statistics ..	754,657	843,058	780,245
46. Survey ..	895,848	916,367	953,861
47. Telecommunications ..	4,182,835	5,241,800	4,580,712
48. Trade Marks Registry ..	111,532	111,098	115,310
Trade Unions (now included under Labour) ..	—	—	—
49. Chief Minister ..	—	—	46,895
50. Treasury ..	627,654	678,503	722,623
Veterinary (now included under Commerce and Industry) ..	262,766	—	—
51. Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ..	4,029,099	4,139,962	—
Total ..	169,730,548	248,919,571	197,911,662

GOVERNMENT OF

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND

		<i>LIABILITIES</i>		\$ c.		\$ c.		\$ c.	
Deposits:—									
1946 3% Rehabilitation Loan				50,000,000	00		
<i>Less:</i> Expenditure 1946	13,684,646	61					
Expenditure 1947	12,264,756	68					
Expenditure 1948	3,788,301	53					
Expenditure 1949	2,122,485	91					
Expenditure 1950	3,622,374	50					
Expenditure 1951	1,156,775	59					
Expenditure 1952	2,831,164	27					
Expenditure 1953	595,994	40					
Expenditure 1954	162,912	26					
Expenditure 1955	48,867	39					
						40,278,279	14		
								9,721,720	86
War Risks (Goods) Insurance Fund						639	54
War Risks (Goods) Insurance Deficit Fund						1,300,318	00
Royal Malayan Navy Fund						2,549,983	62
Special Reserve Fund						97,886,324	72
Development Fund						29,224,371	79
Insurance Companies, etc.						6,576,574	78
Courts						3,012,598	15
Bankruptcy						1,487,300	04
Mercantile Marine Fund						940,974	85
Companies Liquidation Account						87,202	10
Miscellaneous						15,171,711	33
Other Governments						689,841	97
Drafts and Remittances						219,315	13
Joint Colonial Fund						1,302,857	14
General Revenue Balance:—									
Balance as on 1st January, 1955				131,740,546	99		
Surplus and Deficit Account:—									
Revenue for 1955	208,833,166	72					
Expenditure for 1955	197,911,662	29					
						10,921,504	43		
						142,662,051	42		
<i>Less</i> Depreciation of Investments				2,500,329	21		
								140,161,722	21
						Total		310,333,456	23

A part payment of \$14,500,000 was charged to expenditure in 1954 on account of the acquisition of the assets of the Oriental Telephone & Electric Company Limited, against which there will be issued, in due course, ordinary stock of the Singapore Telephone Board under section 32 of the Singapore Telephone Board Ordinance, 1953.

SINGAPORE

LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

<i>ASSETS</i>				\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
Cash:—									
Cash in Treasuries	..	..	..	1,559	78				
Cash in Banks	..	..	..	7,865,152	94				
Cash with Crown Agents	..	..	..	2,974	04				
						7,869,686	76		
Cash-in-Transit	..	..	..			573	35		
								7,870,260	11
Investments:—									
Surplus Funds Sterling Securities	..	..	..			35,742,806	36		
Surplus Funds Dollar and Rupee Securities	..	..	..			15,245,459	30		
Special Reserve Fund	..	..	..			97,886,324	72		
Development Fund	..	..	..			29,491,533	00		
Insurance Companies, etc.	..	..	..			6,576,574	78		
Courts	..	..	..			638,991	82		
Bankruptcy	..	..	..			663,531	81		
Mercantile Marine Fund	..	..	..			795,202	52		
Companies Liquidation Account	..	..	..			81,353	11		
Miscellaneous	..	..	..			201,626	20		
Advances:—									
Building Loans	..	..	..			4,566,290	21		
Miscellaneous	..	..	..			3,283,761	45		
Imprests	..	..	..			120,214	28		
Suspense Account Miscellaneous	..	..	..					14	00
Loans:—									
City Council, Singapore	..	..	..			2,700,000	00		
Singapore Harbour Board	..	..	..			13,453,666	02		
Penang Harbour Board	..	..	..			286,345	15		
Singapore Chinese Girls School	..	..	..			8,096	39		
Singapore Improvement Trust (1948)	..	..	..			4,240,000	00		
Singapore Improvement Trust (1949)	..	..	..			4,400,000	00		
Singapore Improvement Trust (1950)	..	..	..			11,639,000	00		
Singapore Improvement Trust (1951)	..	..	..			15,793,285	40		
Singapore Improvement Trust (1952)	..	..	..			20,913,119	60		
Singapore Improvement Trust Loan Programme No. 7	..	..	..			3,000,000	00		
Government of the Federation of Malaya	..	..	..			30,000,000	00		
Singapore Government Officers' Co-operative Housing Society, Ltd.—Loan No. 1	..	..	..			188,000	00		
Singapore Government Officers' Co-operative Housing Society, Ltd.—Loan No. 2	..	..	..			485,500	00		
Singapore Government Officers' Co-operative Housing Society, Ltd.—Loan No. 3	..	..	..			62,500	00		
Total								310,333,456	23

*Note:—*An amount of \$363,518.69, in respect of the undernoted C. D. & W. Schemes, is recoverable from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and is for the credit of Development Fund.

				\$	c.
Scheme No. R 440	..	..	..	97,243	19
Scheme No. D. 2386	..	..	..	266,275	50
				363,518	69

CITY COUNCIL

The financial affairs of the City Council are governed to a very large extent by the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance which specifies the purposes for which the Council may expend the Municipal Fund and the procedure to be followed in preparing the Municipal Budget. In practice, draft estimates for the coming financial year are prepared by each departmental head in consultation with the City Treasurer and are then considered by the relevant committees of the City Council and, finally, as a whole, by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. After the Budget has been passed by the City Council and a summary thereof has been approved by the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing, heads of departments are responsible for keeping their expenditure within the authorised amounts, but the approval budget may be varied from time to time during the financial year by Supplemental Budgets.

The maximum rates which the City Council may levy on property owners are prescribed by law. The rates actually collected at the end of 1955 were:—

General purpose rate	... 30 per cent of assessed value of the property (since 1953—maximum).
Improvement rate	... 2 per cent (since 1928—the maximum is 5 per cent and the proceeds are handed over to the Singapore Improvement Trust, see page 102).
Education rate	... 2 per cent (since 1920—the maximum and the proceeds are handed over to the Education Finance Board, see page 108).

The rates and taxes are paid into a Consolidated Rate Fund and are kept separate from the monies belonging to the trading departments of the City Council. Further information on the City Council is given in Chapters XIV and XVIII.

The Municipal Budget for 1955 provided for a total expenditure of \$124 millions as compared with slightly over \$116 millions for 1954. Of the total anticipated expenditure of \$124 millions, nearly \$90 millions was to be met from revenue (as compared with \$80 millions in 1954) and a little under \$34 millions from loans (as compared with over \$36 millions in 1954). These figures indicate that the City Council has passed the peak of expenditure on its present programme of Loan Account projects and that pressure in that direction is now abating gradually.

The Consolidated Rate Fund Budget provided for the expenditure of practically \$16 millions on special services projects of which,

in accordance with the policy over the past few years, the largest share (over \$6 millions) was for sewerage extensions. Other substantial provisions for special services included \$1.6 millions for surface water drainage, \$2.8 millions for road improvements and \$800,000 for parks, open spaces and swimming baths.

Four supplemental budgets providing for additional expenditure of over \$10 millions were passed during the course of the year thereby increasing the total estimated expenditure for the year to just over \$100 millions on revenue account. Actual expenditure, however, is expected to fall short of this figure by about \$9 millions, as shown in the statement overleaf.

The supplemental budgets also increased the estimated Loan Account expenditure for the year by nearly \$4 millions, but again actual expenditure is expected to fall short of the estimates as shown in the following statement:—

CITY COUNCIL LOAN ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE

1955 Revised Estimates

		\$	\$
Consolidated Rate Fund:			
Developmental Roads	... ..	2,076,377	
New Fire Stations	... ..	133,000	
City Hall Alterations	... ..	182,251	
		<hr/>	2,371,628
Electricity Department:			
Pasir Panjang Power Station	... ..	13,750,000	
Other Extension Schemes	... ..	10,343,510	
Quarters for Staff	... ..	22,540	
New Stores and Workshops	... ..	1,210,360	
		<hr/>	25,326,410
Gas Department:			
Sundry Extensions	... ..		1,390,860
Water Department:			
Extension Schemes	... ..	8,191,000	
Quarters for Staff	... ..	378,500	
		<hr/>	8,569,500
			<hr/>
			37,658,398
			<hr/>

The above expenditure was largely financed from the proceeds of a \$30 millions loan successfully floated in July 1955. Details of the public debt of the City Council are given on page 62.

				CITY		
				INCOME AND		
				<i>(excluding Loan</i>		
INCOME				1955		
				Revised		
				Estimates		
	1953	1954				
	\$	\$		\$		
CONSOLIDATED						
1. RECEIPTS IN AID OF SPECIFIC SERVICES:—						
(a) Fees for Services rendered	4,537,823	4,660,076		4,803,705		
(b) Fines	497,473	471,639		451,538		
(c) Licence and Permit Fees	1,496,624	1,641,301		1,689,887		
(d) Preparation of cost charged to Trading Departments, etc.	1,775,057	1,760,718		2,335,073		
(e) Rents, Way Leaves, etc.	1,013,994	1,299,730		1,473,077		
(f) Miscellaneous	878,246	704,886		905,575		
	10,199,217	10,538,350		11,658,855		
2. INCOME OTHER THAN RECEIPTS-IN-AID:—						
(a) Consolidated Rate	13,730,670	15,697,170		17,000,000		
(b) Contribution in lieu of Rates	1,970,153	3,007,543		2,999,000		
Contribution in lieu of Rates—Arrears of increased contribution	—	985,875		—		
(c) Contribution to Rate Fund by Trading Departments	530,000	530,000		530,000		
(d) Licences under Municipal Ordinance (Part XIII)	435,737	407,732		373,603		
(e) Licences under Road Traffic Ordinance, 1941 (after deduction of contribution to Rural Board)	5,316,930	5,610,905		6,000,050		
(f) Royalty and contribution under Singapore Traction Ordinance	783,121	887,673		880,000		
(g) Taxes under Municipal Ordinance, Section 82	386,724	388,099		389,424		
(h) War Damage Compensation	—	1,243,079		501,439		
Total, Consolidated Rate Fund	33,352,552	39,296,426		40,332,371		
TRADING						
Electricity Department	19,108,105	22,703,783		25,144,594		
Gas Department	3,988,961	4,927,251		4,425,560		
Water Department	12,871,554	14,910,755		15,911,355		
Total, Trading Departments	35,968,620	42,541,789		45,481,509		
Grand Total	69,321,172	81,838,215		85,813,880		

COUNCIL

EXPENDITURE, 1955

(Account)

EXPENDITURE				1953	1954	1955 Revised Estimates
				\$	\$	\$
RATE FUND						
1. The President and City Councillors .. ..	..	..	..	244,780	282,656	244,352
2. Architect and Building Surveyor's Department ..	..	..	..	1,917,413	2,269,463	2,743,869
3. Assessment and Estates Department .. ..	..	..	..	380,867	394,708	501,531
4. City Cleansing and Hawkers Department .. ..	..	..	..	4,508,923	5,041,059	6,296,093
5. City Engineer's Department .. ..	..	..	..	9,814,127	11,157,752	16,018,155
6. Fire Department .. ..	..	..	..	1,774,732	2,044,299	2,824,797
7. Health Officer's Department .. ..	..	..	..	4,350,307	5,170,026	7,464,037
8. Organisation and Methods Department .. ..	..	..	..	83,606	84,101	211,271
9. Secretariat .. ..	..	..	..	556,046	599,039	778,089
10. Treasury .. ..	..	..	..	1,727,496	1,731,156	2,150,307
11. Vehicles Department .. ..	..	..	..	775,231	837,599	1,260,180
12. Veterinary Surgeon's Department .. ..	..	..	..	386,026	354,563	352,212
13. Victoria Theatre and Memorial Hall .. ..	..	..	..	115,087	102,114	558,229
14. Other Expenditure .. ..	..	..	..	236,632	189,425	263,982
				26,871,273	30,257,960	41,667,104
<hr/>						
House Purchase Loans to Staff—Amounts set aside ..	..	..	..	1,000,000	1,000,000	—
Transfer from Loan Account .. ..	..	..	..	483,317	78,944	—
War Damage Compensation applied in repayment of balance of Government 3% Loan 1949 .. ..	..	..	..	—	1,001,750	—
				28,354,590	32,338,654	41,667,104
<hr/>						
DEPARTMENTS						
Electricity Department .. ..	..	..	..	20,262,345	24,156,160	28,608,406
Gas Department .. ..	..	..	..	4,131,620	4,679,157	4,790,966
Water Department .. ..	..	..	..	12,287,769	14,761,631	16,275,975
				36,681,734	43,596,948	49,675,347
<hr/>						
Total, Trading Departments .. ..	..	..	..	65,036,324	75,935,602	91,342,451
<hr/>						
Grand Total				65,036,324	75,935,602	91,342,451
<hr/>						

CITY COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE
Public Debt as at 31st December, 1955

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Interest Payable</i>	<i>Earliest date of Redemption</i>
	\$ c.		
DOLLAR DEBENTURE STOCKS			
4% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1913 (1963) Series B ..	964,785 00	31st March	30th Sept. 30th Sept., 1963
5% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1926 (1956/66) ..	22,000,000 00	1st May	1st Nov. 1st May, 1956
4½% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1930 (1970/80) ..	6,000,000 00	1st May	1st Sept. 1st Sept., 1970
3% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1935 (1975/85) ..	4,000,000 00	1st April	1st Oct. 1st April, 1975
3% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1937 (1962) ..	2,750,000 00	15th May	15th Nov. 15th May, 1962
3% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1938 (1958) ..	4,000,000 00	15th May	15th Nov. 15th May, 1958
4% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1939 (1959) ..	5,000,000 00	31st March	30th Sept. 30th Sept., 1959
3½% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1948 (1968/73) ..	30,000,000 00	20th Jan.	20th July 20th July, 1968
3½% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1951 (1961/71) ..	25,000,000 00	31st March	30th Sept. 30th Sept., 1961
5% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1952 (1962/72) ..	25,000,000 00	1st March	1st Sept. 1st Sept., 1962
4½% Singapore City Council Debenture Stock 1953 (1963/73) ..	30,000,000 00	1st May	1st Nov. 1st Nov., 1963
4% Singapore City Council Debenture Stock 1954 (1965/77) ..	30,000,000 00	31st March	30th Sept. 31st March, 1965
4% Singapore City Council Debenture Stock 1955 (1970, 80) ..	30,000,000 00	1st June	1st Dec. 1st Dec., 1970
3% Government of the Colony of Singapore Loan 1949 ..	2,700,000 00	31st Mar.	30th Sept. 30th Sept., 1961
Total Dollar Debenture Stocks ..	217,414,785 00		
STERLING DEBENTURE STOCK			
4% Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock 1913 (1963) Series B (£119,568 at 2/4) ..	1,024,868 57	31st Mar.	30th Sept. 30th Sept., 1963
Total Public Debt ..	218,439,653 57		

Note:—There are Sinking Fund accumulations amounting to approximately \$54 millions as at 31st December, 1955.

RURAL BOARD

The area for which the Rural Board is responsible includes all that portion of Singapore Island outside City limits and the out-lying islands in Colony waters. Further information on the Rural Board is given on page 252.

Although the Rural Board collects its own rates and various fees for licences, and receives also a proportion of the vehicle taxes collected by the City Council, the revenue received does not cover the total expenditure. The deficit is met by a contribution from the Singapore Government. Over the past three years, expenditure has increased considerably and with the greater development of the rural areas further increases are to be expected.

During 1955 the total expenditure was estimated to be \$3,840,347. Revenue was estimated at \$3,210,092. The main items of actual revenue and expenditure are given on pages 64 and 65.

SINGAPORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST

The Singapore Improvement Trust is a body corporate established by Ordinance in 1927 to provide for the improvement of the town and island of Singapore. Since 1947 the Trust has acted as Government's agent for public housing within the Colony.

The financial affairs of the Trust are largely governed by the provisions of Part III of the Singapore Improvement Ordinance. These provisions require, *inter alia*, (a) the preparation of an annual budget to be laid before the Board of Trustees and subsequently submitted to the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing for approval; (b) the appointment, by the Minister, of auditors to examine the accounts and report thereon. The total revenue expenditure for the Trust in 1955 was estimated to amount to \$10.8 millions.

Housing

By the end of 1955, Government had approved loans amounting to \$95.9 millions for the financing of the Trust's building programmes. The loans bear interest at 3 per cent or 4 per cent and are repayable by half-yearly annuities or instalments over 60 years or, in respect of \$12.5 millions, 40 years. The Government has given further assistance in recent building programmes by undertaking to write off part of the capital cost of building on

RURAL

REVENUE	REVENUE AND		
	1953	1954	1955
	\$	\$	\$
Rates (property assessment, etc.) ..	909,727	1,170,762	1,262,937
Licence (dogs, pigstiles, public markets, etc.)	132,431	163,557	156,238
Fees (building plans, petroleum storage, etc.)	478,790	664,321	681,386
Other, including operation of quarry ..	204,340	286,616	254,007
Contributions from Colony Government ..	1,653,546	2,210,384	630,281
Proportion of vehicle licence fees collected by City Council under Road Traffic Ordinance, 1941	743,653	786,661	855,525
Total ..	4,122,487	5,282,301	3,840,374

BOARD

EXPENDITURE

<i>EXPENDITURE</i>				<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
				\$	\$	\$
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE						
<i>Health</i>						
Conservancy .. ..	..	..	..	440,180	558,843	710,143
Anti-Mosquito Works .. ..	..	..	..	191,942	262,517	319,820
Other Measures .. ..	..	..	..	78,255	105,405	157,815
<i>General</i>						
Salaries and Allowances .. ..	..	..	..	551,569	507,825	582,290
Contribution to Fire Brigade .. ..	..	..	..	95,000	95,000	95,000
Street Lighting .. ..	..	..	..	50,187	95,397	121,928
Fire Hydrants and Water Supply .. ..	..	..	..	324,921	492,219	319,077
*Improvements to Rural Areas .. ..	..	..	..	108,343	67,003	—
*Purchase of Land .. ..	..	..	..	130,211	88,744	—
Other .. ..	..	..	..	113,135	127,778	133,306
<i>Public Works</i>						
Maintenance of Roads and Bridges .. ..	..	..	..	284,169	392,485	417,472
Maintenance of Bukit Timah Quarry .. ..	..	..	..	159,092	197,452	191,532
Other .. ..	..	..	..	129,385	193,253	186,240
SPECIAL EXPENDITURE						
*Changi Coast Road .. ..	..	..	..	141,208	391,081	—
Community Hall, Bukit Panjang .. ..	..	..	..	60,938	35,151	—
*Reserve Roads .. ..	..	..	..	42,704	85,177	—
*Reconstruction and Improvement of Roads .. ..	..	..	..	673,463	193,850	—
Resurfacing and Sealing of Roads .. ..	..	..	..	216,299	334,759	270,200
Other .. ..	..	..	..	331,486	1,058,362	335,551
Total ..				4,122,487	5,282,301	3,840,374

*Note:—*The amounts for items marked with an asterisk are now included separately in the expenditure for Development Estimates 1955 which amounted to \$2,350,212.

expensive sites, to help the Trust charge rentals more within the means of the people for whom the housing is intended. The capital expenditure of the Trust for 1955 was estimated to amount to approximately \$10 millions compared with \$12.4 millions for 1954.

The income from Trust housing in the form of rentals, service charges, conservancy charges, etc., estimated to amount to \$8.5 millions in 1955, is utilised in payment of City Council assessment, loan charges, administration, maintenance and management.

Improvement

The cost of carrying out the statutory duties of the Trust imposed by the Improvement Ordinance is financed by means of an improvement rate levied over all properties within the City area together with an equivalent contribution by Government. The Improvement rate, levied at 2 per cent of annual value, was estimated to produce \$1.2 millions in 1955.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD

The Singapore Harbour Board is constituted under the Ports Ordinance and consists of a Chairman (who is also General Manager) and not more than ten other members comprising representatives of the shipping and trading and one senior Government official.

The accounts of the Board are audited by the Government auditors. The Board is required to be self-supporting and is empowered under the provisions of the Ordinance to frame scales of charges in respect of the services provided within the area under its control. These charges, together with rents from lands and buildings constitute the main revenue of the Board and were completely revised in 1954. Any surplus which remains from revenue after expenditure has been met is devoted to the improvement and development of the existing facilities.

The Board is possibly unique as a port authority in that it not only employs directly all labour engaged in working cargo both the wharves and on vessels, but it also owns and operate two dockyards capable of effecting major repairs to vessels of the largest class. It employs approximately 10,000 persons, the majority of whom are housed on the Board's estate and maintains a police force numbering 338 altogether with a well equipped fire brigade.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1955.

<i>Income</i>			\$
Traffic Department:			
Wharfage, wharf labour earnings, storage water sales, tugs earnings, etc.	...	...	25,517,484
Dockyard Department:			
Dry docks earnings, repairs and painting of vessels and general repair work	...	...	19,693,257
Electrical Department			
Electric light and power supplied	...	...	386,854
Rents of properties and sundry receipts	...	...	785,147
			<hr/>
			46,382,742
War Damage Commission Receipts	...	...	1,535,450
			<hr/>
			47,918,192
<i>Expenditure</i>			\$
Departmental wages and salaries, materials consumed, repairs and running costs and working expenses:			
Traffic Department	...	...	17,483,997
Dockyard Department	...	...	12,780,683
Electrical Department	...	...	119,555
			<hr/>
			30,384,235
General Establishment: Wages and salaries and administration expenses, house property and general building repairs, police service and municipal assessment			
	...	...	10,340,837
Loan Interest and Sinking Fund Charges			1,812,270
			<hr/>
			42,537,342
Balance surplus before providing for renewals			
	...	...	5,380,850
Balance brought forward from the last account			
	...	...	826,784
			<hr/>
			6,207,634
Transfers to Reserves:			
General	...	...	500,000
Port Development	...	...	3,035,450
Renewals	...	...	1,000,000
Building	...	...	1,000,000
			<hr/>
			5,535,450
Balance carried forward to the next account			
	...	...	672,184
			<hr/>

expensive sites, to help the Trust charge rentals more within the means of the people for whom the housing is intended. The capital expenditure of the Trust for 1955 was estimated to amount to approximately \$10 millions compared with \$12.4 millions for 1954.

The income from Trust housing in the form of rentals, service charges, conservancy charges, etc., estimated to amount to \$8.5 millions in 1955, is utilised in payment of City Council assessment, loan charges, administration, maintenance and management.

Improvement

The cost of carrying out the statutory duties of the Trust imposed by the Improvement Ordinance is financed by means of an improvement rate levied over all properties within the City area together with an equivalent contribution by Government. The Improvement rate, levied at 2 per cent of annual value, was estimated to produce \$1.2 millions in 1955.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD

The Singapore Harbour Board is constituted under the Ports Ordinance and consists of a Chairman (who is also General Manager) and not more than ten other members comprising representatives of the shipping and trading and one senior Government official.

The accounts of the Board are audited by the Government auditors. The Board is required to be self-supporting and is empowered under the provisions of the Ordinance to frame scales of charges in respect of the services provided within the area under its control. These charges, together with rents from lands and buildings constitute the main revenue of the Board and were completely revised in 1954. Any surplus which remains from revenue after expenditure has been met is devoted to the improvement and development of the existing facilities.

The Board is possibly unique as a port authority in that it not only employs directly all labour engaged in working cargo both the wharves and on vessels, but it also owns and operate two dockyards capable of effecting major repairs to vessels of the largest class. It employs approximately 10,000 persons, the majority of whom are housed on the Board's estate and maintains a police force numbering 338 altogether with a well equipped fire brigade.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1955.

Income

\$

Traffic Department:

Wharfage, wharf labour earnings, storage water sales, tugs earnings, etc.	25,517,484
--	------------

Dockyard Department:

Dry docks earnings, repairs and painting of vessels and general repair work	19,693,257
--	------------

Electrical Department

Electric light and power supplied	386,854
--	---------

Rents of properties and sundry receipts	785,147
--	---------

46,382,742

War Damage Commission Receipts	1,535,450
---------------------------------------	-----------

47,918,192*Expenditure*

\$

Departmental wages and salaries, materials consumed, repairs and running costs and working expenses:

Traffic Department	17,483,997
Dockyard Department	12,780,683
Electrical Department	119,555

30,384,235

General Establishment: Wages and salaries and administration expenses, house property and general building repairs, police service and municipal assessment

10,340,837

Loan Interest and Sinking Fund Charges

1,812,270

42,537,342

Balance surplus before providing for renewals

5,380,850

Balance brought forward from the last account

826,784

6,207,634

Transfers to Reserves:

General	500,000
Port Development	3,035,450
Renewals	1,000,000
Building	1,000,000

5,535,450

Balance carried forward to the next account

672,184

It has been the policy of the Board to charge rates as low as are compatible with the proper maintenance of its assets and the grant of increased living standards to its employees. The extent to which this policy has been successful may be gauged from the fact that, taking 1949 as the base year the aggregate net registered tonnage of vessels using the wharves has increased by 64.61 per cent in 1955 and total tonnage of cargo handled by 51.28 per cent. Since 1950, \$29½ millions has been added to reserve funds whilst major development programmes now in progress, including the construction of a new graving dock are estimated to cost \$60 millions. An account of the Board's undertaking is to be found in Chapter XV.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

Under the new 1955 C. D. & W. Act, Singapore has been given no territorial allocation. However, unspent balances from allocations under the previous Acts of 1945 and 1950 will still be available to the Colony and in addition applications can be made for assistance from the general reserve of £12½ millions, which the Secretary of State has set aside for new schemes outside the new allocations, and from the central allocation for research, higher education, surveys, etc. The University of Malaya received very generous assistance during the year. In April a grant of £984,000 was made available towards the construction of permanent buildings and in July a further grant of £500,000 was approved as a contribution towards capital expenditure. This money will be spent at the discretion of the University authorities at Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

During 1955, work on schemes in progress was steady but considerable delay was experienced in respect of other schemes because of difficulties connected with land. The new Outer Ring Road Scheme approved by the Secretary of State in May has been held up because of squatters along the trace of the road. This Ring Road will connect the dock and wharf area at Tanjong Pagar with the main road from Singapore to the Federation and it is hoped that it will divert most of the heavy traffic away from the City. It will be built in three sections: Holland Road to Alexandra Road, Alexandra Road to Henderson Road, and Henderson Road to the docks. The total length of all these sections will be about 3 to 4 miles. Only the first section, estimated to cost just over \$1.7 millions, will be financed from C. D. & W. money. Lack

of suitable sites has also held up work on the boys and girls hostels though it is now likely that work will be able to commence early in 1956 on the boys hostel.

The new Singapore Airport at Paya Lebar was opened to traffic in August 1955 and by the end of the year all the money granted from C. D. & W. funds had been spent. The new medium sized dry dock, to be called Queen's Dock, which is intended to offer facilities to the growing tanker trade was nearing completion, and by the end of the year a balance of \$290,000 only remained unspent from the loan of \$1.75 millions from C. D. & W. funds. The foundations and walls of the Adult Education Centre were finished, the total expenditure for the year being \$92,000, which leaves about \$258,000 to complete the work, \$50,000 of which is to be raised by public subscriptions. Some \$350,000 was spent on the work of construction of the Urban Health Centre and it is estimated that the total C. D. & W. grant will be spent in 1956. The running expenditure of the Centre is to be found by the Singapore Government, the University of Malaya and the City Council. When completed it will provide a school, medical and dental clinic and child welfare facilities in the City area.

To provide the basic research as a contribution towards the economic exploitation of fishing grounds in Malayan and adjoining waters, the Secretary of State agreed to the establishment, with C. D. & W. funds, of a Regional Fisheries Research Station at Singapore. The maintenance of the scheme is jointly financed by the United Kingdom and the Malayan and Bornean Governments. As the scheme has barely had a full year's working it is still too early to assess results. The research vessel *Manihine* arrived in Singapore during August and before the end of the year had made a trial run to Brunei and back. The Laboratory at Changi was completed during the last quarter. \$1.4 millions have been spent from the grant of \$1.9 millions to date and another \$300,000 will be spent before the expiry of the present scheme in March 1956. The Malayan Governments are now considering the future of the scheme after this date and, in the meantime, the Secretary of State has been asked to allow it to continue on its present basis for one year more.

The territorial allocation to Singapore under the C. D. & W. Acts is \$7,324,286. Of this amount there still remains to be specifically allotted a sum of approximately \$600,000, and the question of utilising this balance is under active consideration.

V

CURRENCY AND BANKING

CURRENCY

UNDER a currency agreement between the Governments of the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei, which became effective on 1st January, 1952, the Malaya and British Borneo Currency Commissioners have the sole right to issue notes and coin in these five territories and, as a backing for the currency, they manage a Currency Fund consisting of sterling securities. The Board consists of five members, of whom two are the Financial Secretaries of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya, one is appointed jointly by the Governors of Sarawak, North Borneo and the British Resident, Brunei, while the remaining two are appointed by the participating governments acting in concert. The Chairman of the Commissioners is the Financial Secretary of Singapore.

Currency issued by the Board is the only legal tender in the Colony. The standard unit of currency is the Malayan dollar, which is on the sterling exchange standard and fixed at 2s. 4d. This currency is also legal tender throughout the Federation of Malaya, Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei.

The following types of currency are issued and were in circulation as legal tender during the year:—

- (i) currency notes bearing the inscription of the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya, and dates not earlier than 1st July, 1941 in denominations of one, five, ten, twenty and fifty cents, for the payment of any amount not exceeding two dollars;
- (ii) currency notes bearing the inscription of the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya, and dates not earlier than 1st July, 1941 in denominations of one, five, ten, fifty, one hundred, one thousand and ten thousand dollars, for the payment of any amount;

- (iii) currency notes bearing the inscription of the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya and British Borneo, and bearing the effigy of Her Majesty the Queen and dated 21st March, 1953 in denominations of one, ten, fifty and one hundred dollars for the payment of any amount;
- (iv) cupro-nickel coin in denominations of five, ten, twenty and fifty cents, for any amount not exceeding two dollars;
- (v) copper and bronze coin in denominations of one quarter and one half of one cent, and one cent, for any amount not exceeding two dollars.

All notes and cupro-nickel coins mentioned above were issued into circulation after September 1945; copper and bronze coins have been issued both before and since the war. Cupro-nickel coins of a new design in denominations of five, ten, twenty and fifty cents and bearing the effigy of Her Majesty the Queen were issued into circulation in 1954.

No figures of actual circulation can be given for Singapore alone. The figures given below show total currency in circulation on 31st December, 1955 in the several territories, including currency which may be circulating in adjoining countries.

			\$
Notes	...	...	915,420,660
Cupro-nickel coins	...	...	30,856,903
Nickel coins	...	...	108,500
Copper and Bronze coins	...	...	3,954,557
			<hr/>
			950,340,620
			<hr/>

During the year 1955, currency circulation increased by \$144.68 millions on account of sterling remittances amounting to £16.95 millions.

BANKING

During the year, 1955, three new banks commenced business in the Colony. They are:—

The Bank of America	...	1st October, 1955.
The Bank of Singapore Ltd.	...	1st October, 1955.
The Bank Negara Indonesia	...	19th November, 1955.

The following banks carried on business in the Colony during the year:—

American Express Co. Inc.*	Indian Bank Ltd.
Ban Hin Lee Bank Ltd.†	Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.
Bank of America	Industrial & Commercial Bank Ltd.§
Bank of Canton Ltd.‡	Kwangtung Provincial Bank Ltd.
Bank of China	Kwong Lee Banking Co.¶
Bank of East Asia Ltd.‡	Lee Wah Bank Ltd.§
Bank of India Ltd.	Mercantile Bank of India Ltd.
Bank Negara Indonesia	Nationale Handelsbank N.V.
Bank of Singapore Ltd.§	Netherlands Trading Society
Banque de l'Indochine	Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd.§
Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China	Overseas Union Bank Ltd.§
Chung Khiaw Bank Ltd.§	Sze Hai Tong Banking & Insurance Co. Ltd.§
Eastern Bank Ltd.	United Chinese Bank Ltd.§
First National City Bank of New York	United Commercial Bank Ltd.
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	

* Banks not members of the Malayan Exchange Banks Association.

† Head Office in Penang.

‡ Banks incorporated in Hong Kong.

§ Banks incorporated in Singapore.

¶ This Bank is a partnership business registered in Singapore.

In addition to these banks a number of remittance shops operated under permit in Singapore for the transmission of family remittances to China, particularly to areas where there are no banking facilities.

Post Office Savings Bank

The Singapore Post Office Savings Bank began operations as a separate entity on the 1st January, 1949. The Savings Bank which until then had covered the whole of the Straits Settlements, was divided by transferring the Penang and Malacca divisions to the Federation of Malaya and by the severance of the Labuan division.

The number of depositors in the Singapore Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1955, was 154,668 as compared with 142,381 on 31st December, 1954, an increase of 8.6 per cent. During the year 16,803 new accounts were opened and 4,516 accounts were closed.

The number of transactions for the year increased by 7.2 per cent from 295,093 in 1954 to 316,364.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on 31st December, 1955, was \$57,623,915 as compared with \$55,042,497 on the 31st December, 1954. This increase of 4.7 per cent is made up of \$1,247,640 being the excess of deposits over withdrawals, and \$1,333,778 in respect of interest credited. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was reduced from \$387 in 1954 to \$373 in 1955.

Through the Students Saving Scheme, school children saved \$46,053 during the year, bringing their total savings to \$162,228 since the inception of the scheme in September 1952.

The Forces Saving Scheme, whereby soldiers have deductions made from their pay and credited to their Savings Bank accounts, was introduced in September 1954. By this method members of the Forces have saved \$90,139 up to the end of 1955.

BANK RATES OF EXCHANGE

The Malayan Exchange Banks Association's best agreed rates on London and other countries as well as changes and highs and lows of rates during the year are shown below:—

		<i>Banks' selling rate for telegraphic transfers or on demand draft</i>		<i>Banks' buying rate for telegraphic transfers</i>	
On London	...	2/4	1/32	2/4	5/32
On Australia	...	2/10	31/32	2/11	11/32
On New Zealand	...	2/4		2/4	7/16
On Burma	...	155	5/8	156	5/8
On India	...	155	5/8	156	5/8
On Ceylon	...	155	1/8	156	1/8
On Pakistan					
(1-1-55 to 1-8-55)	...	108		108	7/8
from 2-8-55 to date		155	5/8	156	3/4
On Hongkong	Highest	53	3/8	52	7/8
	Lowest	53	3/16	52	11/16
On U.S.A.	Highest	32	11/16	32	15/16
	Lowest	32	1/2	32	11/16
On Canada	Highest	32	5/8	33	
	Lowest	31	5/16	31	5/8

Bank rate was raised from 3 to 3½ per cent on 27th January, 1955 and on 14th February the Malayan Exchange Banks' Association raised their interest rates for advances against Government and/or Municipal securities, clean advances and advances against

commodities, from 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The rates for advances against stocks and shares and for advances against property remained unchanged at $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 per cent respectively.

Bank rate was again raised in London on 24th February, 1955 from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and on 7th March the Malayan Exchange Banks' Association raised their rates for advances in all five categories by half of one per cent. Since that date, and up to the time of writing, the Association's agreed minimum rates of interest for advances have been as follows:—

Advances against Government	and/or	
Municipal Securities	...	5 per cent
Clean advances	...	5 per cent
Advances against Commodities	...	5 per cent
Advances against Stocks and Shares	...	6 per cent
Advances against Property	...	$6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent

VI

TRADE

FREEDOM OF TRADE and the provision of competitive and efficient port facilities have been the corner-stone of Singapore's policy throughout the 137 years of its existence. These combined with the accumulated experience and skill of its merchants have ensured Singapore of its continued prosperity. Thus Singapore has been able to take the fullest advantage of the expansion of international trade.

Trading conditions improved during 1955. Total trade amounted to \$5,647 millions compared with \$4,508 millions in 1954, an increase of \$1,139 millions. Imports totalled \$2,865 millions against \$2,331 millions* in 1954 and exports reached \$2,782 millions compared with \$2,174 millions* in 1954. The price of rubber showed an upward trend. R.S.S. No. 1 reached a peak of 154 cents per pound on the 4th August before declining to an average of 125 cents during the last quarter of the year. Tin prices remained steady for the first six months but moved up to \$405 per picul at the end of the year.

Imports from a wide range of countries continue to find markets through Singapore. Japanese imports showed a considerable advance totalling \$194 millions against \$120 millions in 1954. Trade with Indonesia improved considerably following the Goodwill and Trade Missions to Indonesia. Total trade with Indonesia amounted to \$1,207.3 millions compared with \$930.8 millions in 1954.

A Trade Advisory Council was set up in July 1955 to advise the Minister for Commerce and Industry on commercial and economic matters, including the recommendation of appropriate legislation. Council members include representatives of the three Chambers of Commerce and associations of manufacturers, bankers and rubber merchants. In addition to its advisory capacity the Council has also become an important link between the Ministry and the various sections of commerce and industry.

* Amended figures.

COMMODITIES

The following table shows trade in the principal commodities. The terms of trade improved considerably and the balance of visible trade including the value of ship stores, bunker fuel and parcel post showed a deficit of \$83.6 millions only compared with \$154 millions in 1954. Particulars of the value of principal items of trade are given in the graph on another page. These figures do not include trade between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya which is substantial. Exports include re-exports.

TRADE IN PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES

(by volume)

IMPORTS			EXPORTS		
1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
252,578	317,965	343,365*	Rubber (tons)	506,480	555,295* 526,657
—	—	—	Tin (tons)	26,853	33,276 33,332
63,734	85,433	102,167	Sugar, coarse and refined (tons) ..	5,977	14,056 22,235
5,627	12,597	9,560	Coffee, raw (tons)	3,486	16,642 9,488
152,425	110,995	149,781	Cotton Piece Goods (1,000 sq. yds.) ..	114,677	38,625 68,005
40,894	58,328	120,822	Art. Silk Piece Goods (1,000 sq. yds)	23,916	16,727 48,086
67,610	105,412	90,820	Copra (tons)	55,794	53,995 41,756
614	673	633	Coconut oil (tons)	13,712	35,537 35,142
23,745	12,160	11,384	Fish dried and salted (tons) ..	27,605	11,389 4,603
148,919	73,544	72,899	Bicycles (Nos.)	54,341	20,439 17,720
792,115	956,351	2,222,670	Clocks and watches (Nos.) ..	179,543	91,184 152,551
711	123	137	Cloves (tons)	805	239 56
1,170,848	1,219,545	1,417,277	Milk, sweetened condensed (cases) ..	206,612	95,966 120,021
8,657	18,025	24,866	Pepper (tons)	8,829	17,596 21,868
306,362	200,442	266,579	Rice (tons)	43,367	48,533 54,738
67,536	64,454	72,235	Wheat flour (tons)	7,330	9,841 10,300
11,131	11,033	11,771	Cigarettes (1,000 lb.)	3,708	3,733 4,312
20	22	13	Canned pineapples (tons) ..	16,264	19,890 25,599
482	158	852	Palm oil (tons)	26,174	24,645 27,153
41,065	70,773	92,103	Sewing machines (Nos.)	18,719	28,193 28,833
197,594	218,636	252,038	Cement (tons)	12,935	10,489 9,969
34,751	11,180	13,320	Galvd. Iron Sheets (tons) ..	22,789	3,760 3,700
954	589	1,167	Motor buses, trucks, etc. (New) (Nos.)	302	242 212
4,277	4,149	9,205	Motor cars (New) (Nos.)	436	473 802

*Including transshipment.

Rubber

Total Malayan production was maintained at a high level. There was a steady build up in demand for rubber from most of the consuming countries during 1955. In November heavy U.S.S.R. buying resulted in a premium amounting to 5½ cents on Ribbed Smoked Sheet Grade 1. This heavy buying upset forecasts made earlier in the year.

Imports from Indonesia were higher in the second half of 1955. Latex shipments during the year amounted to 107,806 tons, the figure for the second half of the year being approximately 6,000 tons less than in the first half. Indications are that some estates are reverting to the manufacture of ribbed smoked sheet and crepe grades.

In August rumours of future American stockpile arrangements had a disturbing effect on the market. The official statement on U.S. Government stockpile administration policy had a stabilising effect.

Estate forward sales were put on a definite tax and cess basis in September.

In September President Eisenhower's illness caused a sudden decline in the price from 139 cents to 114 cents.

At the Rubber Study Group Meeting in Monrovia in October, the Malayan Rubber Export Registration Board was highly spoken of and the hope was again expressed that other exporting countries might follow the example set by Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. The Indonesian delegate stated that Indonesia was contemplating the introduction of some form of control over the quality of rubber exports.

The f.o.b. price of rubber during the year averaged 113.78 cents per pound; the lowest price being 83.5 cents and the highest 154 cents. Exports from Malaya during the year amounted to 994,176 tons compared with 915,114 tons in 1954.

PAN-MALAYAN EXPORTS OF RUBBER TO MAIN CONSUMING COUNTRIES

		<i>Tons</i>	
		<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
United Kingdom	...	201,781	236,846
United States of America	...	146,804	182,896
France	...	87,714	88,568
West Germany	...	74,750	86,752
Japan	...	67,356	71,359

AVERAGE QUARTERLY PRICE OF RUBBER

*(Straits cents per pound)**Ribbed Smoked Sheet**Grade 1 Grade 3 Crepe Blanket**1953*

1st Quarter	...	78.7	71.3	68.5
2nd Quarter	...	69.2	63.3	60.2
3rd Quarter	...	64.5	61.2	54.9
4th Quarter	...	57.7	54.7	46.8

1954

1st Quarter	...	55.1	53.6	47.2
2nd Quarter	...	62.8	60.9	58.3
3rd Quarter	...	68.9	67.8	65.8
4th Quarter	...	81.4	79.6	75.7

1955

1st Quarter	...	95.4	92.6	86.8
2nd Quarter	...	95.3	90.5	83.7
3rd Quarter	...	139.3	128.5	106.0
4th Quarter	...	125.1	120.7	99.3

Tin

The bulk of tin ore smelted in Pulau Brani, off Singapore, is obtained from mines in the Federation of Malaya.

EXPORTS OF TIN

(by value in Malayan dollars)

		<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
		\$	\$	\$
United Kingdom	...	7,887,040	11,084,287	8,465,605
United States	...	97,502,507	116,646,632	119,492,572
Germany	...	778,783	320,789	1,968,583
Japan	...	11,348,529	7,198,251	13,610,003
Italy	...	10,325,824	6,826,630	7,487,045
France	...	8,872,885	11,960,140	13,647,635
Netherlands	...	8,527,050	6,134,158	9,025,597
Other Countries	...	27,048,883	35,824,440	28,551,058
Totals	...	172,291,501	195,995,327	202,248,098

The year opened with tin fetching \$344.25 per picul ex works in Singapore. The price remained steady for the first six months of the year and moved within narrow limits at an average of \$354.12½ per picul. During the second half of the year the price moved to a higher level at about \$375 per picul, with a sudden upward trend during December. A peak of \$409.25 per picul was reached on 9th December, thereafter the price fell away slightly until the end of the year when it stood at \$405 per picul.

The International Tin Agreement was signed on 30th June, 1954, but certain major countries had still not ratified by the end of 1955.

When this Agreement becomes effective the International Tin Council will be set up in London to supervise the operation of the Agreement. The Council will administer the Agreement which includes the control of exports and the use of a buffer stock. Malaya will be represented on the International Tin Council by Sir Vincent del Tufo with Mr. J. N. Davies, Trade Commissioner for Malaya in the United Kingdom, as the alternate.

Canned Pineapple

Three pineapple canneries representing an investment of approximately two million dollars operated in Singapore throughout the year. They have planted a total of 4,000 acres of pineapple in the Federation of Malaya at a cost of approximately two and a half million dollars.

The canneries, two of which are situated at Kranji and one at Kallang, were able to operate satisfactorily despite the high cost of transport for fruit, most of which were grown outside the Island.

A total of 8,800 tons of canned pineapple were produced in Singapore during the year using 15,400 tons of smallgrowers' pineapples (approximately 20 per cent of which were grown in Singapore and the neighbouring islands) and 12,300 tons from the packers' own estates in Johore.

Of the total production, 85 per cent was exported to the United Kingdom and the remainder in comparatively small lots to the rest of the sterling area and Canada.

In addition, companies registered in Singapore own two large canneries operating in the Federation representing an investment of approximately four million dollars; these companies are to plant 14,000 acres of land at a total cost of approximately twelve million dollars.

Petroleum Products

Singapore is a large importer of petroleum products, of which a considerable proportion comes from Sarawak and Indonesia. There are two large bulk installations at Pulau Bukom and Pu'au Sebarok which store and blend oil for redistribution and ship bunkering, and act as terminals for transshipment of the commodity.

Value of total imports increased to \$597.3 millions compared with \$521 millions in 1954, and total exports increased from \$353 millions in 1954 to \$374 millions. Exports of ship and aircraft stores increased from \$108 millions in 1954 to \$124 millions (including bunker fuel).

Rice

The trade in rice is conducted wholly through commercial channels. Importers are required to purchase a proportion of their requirements from the Government stockpile as a measure of precaution against any emergency. The condition regarding proportional purchase enables Government to turn over the stockpile within a reasonable period. Throughout the year the ratios to be purchased from the stockpile against free imports were 1:2 for wholegrain rice and large broken rice, and 1:3 for small broken rice.

It is Government policy to manage the stockpile on a no-profit, no-loss basis. In pursuance of this policy Government made three price reductions during the year.

All the rice held in the Government stockpile was from Thailand. Burmese and Pakistani rice was also available in commercial stocks.

At the end of June, the stock of 5 per cent grade was liquidated and thereafter only 10 and 15 per cent grades of rice were carried in the stockpile.

Ample stocks in Thailand were available till early November when late heavy rains delayed the drying of the padi harvest, and milling was held up. By the middle of December, however, conditions again became favourable for drying and milling, and supplies commenced to flow in.

Meat

The supply of meat comes mainly from locally slaughtered animals, most of which are produced in Singapore. About 15 per cent of the supply is imported and comes in the form of frozen or chilled meat. Australia and Indonesia continued to be the principal overseas sources for meat.

In addition to 17,944 tons of locally slaughtered fresh meat, there were approximately 5,000 tons of poultry meat, making a total of nearly 23,000 tons of fresh meat, most of which was produced locally. Substantial quantities of poultry were exported to the Federation of Malaya and Borneo.

Retail prices remained at about the same level as for the last three years, although prices of pigs ex-farm have decreased from 10 to 20 per cent. The price of poultry has decreased from an average price of \$1.62 in 1954 to \$1.50 per kati and fresh eggs (fowl and duck) from \$1.39 in 1954 to \$1.24 per 10 eggs. The consumption of poultry by the average family was restricted to festive occasions only five years ago, but now an average of fifteen birds are consumed per annum. Fresh meat and eggs now form part of the weekly diet. The expansion of the local food animal industry in the last three years has been remarkable and the effects of this on the nutrition and wellbeing of the population is clearly apparent.

Other Commodities

The trade in textiles showed an increase of \$32 millions over the 1954 figure. Imports of textiles amounted to 149.7 millions square yards valued at \$91.1 millions compared with 111.0 millions square yards valued at \$72.6 millions in 1954. Out of a total value of \$35.3 millions textiles exported, about \$21.2 millions or 60 per cent were exported to Indonesia compared with only \$4.2 millions in 1954. This was due to the easing of some trade restrictions by the Indonesian authorities following the Goodwill and Trade Missions to Indonesia in 1955. Total trade in textiles was \$126,406,000 compared with \$94,405,000 in 1954.

The amount of copra imported was 90,800 tons against 105,400 tons in 1954; most of this was for local consumption and for processing into refined oil. Exports of copra continued to decline owing to stiff competition from the Philippines. The total value of copra exported fell by 31.5 per cent. The amount exported was 41,800 tons valued at \$20,610,000 against 54,000 tons valued at \$31,485,000 in 1954.

Supplies of pepper, mainly from Indonesia, improved towards the end of the year. Imports amounted to 24,870 tons against 18,030 tons in 1954. The total volume of pepper exported increased from 17,600 tons in 1954 to 21,860 tons, but the value of the exports fell from \$61,030,000 in 1954 to \$54,127,000.

Trade in coffee declined considerably. Imports decreased to 9,560 tons from 12,600 tons in 1954 and 9,490 tons were exported against 16,640 tons in 1954.

IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL

Singapore continued to limit the import of goods from dollar sources.

Direct dollar imports for the year amounted \$78.36 millions. The main imports were wheat flour, fresh fruits, canned fish, manila rope, tinplate, tractors, air-conditioning units, machinery and machinery parts. Imports of goods of dollar origin from Hong-kong amounted to \$73.30 millions.

The restrictions on the import of textiles and cement from Japan were removed early in the year, import licences thereafter being freely issued for these two commodities. In February, an open general licence was issued for the import of all minor items from Japan.

A further liberalisation of import licensing was effected when the Open General Licence was extended to permit the import of cameras, radios, gramophones, clocks and toys and games from all sources except the dollar area.

In March, the export of rubber and other strategic materials was embargoed to North Vietnam. The export of a limited range of goods in short supply, principally carbon black, round timber, constructional steel, nitrogenous fertilisers, continued to be restricted.

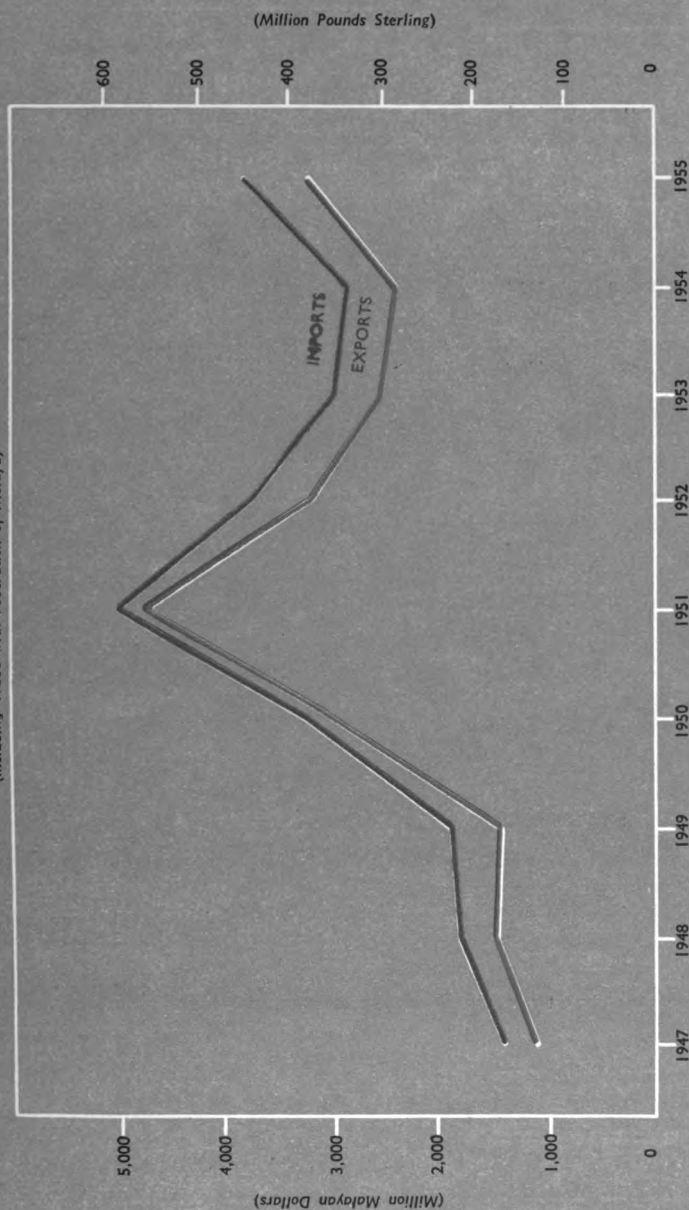
CHANNELS OF TRADE

Generally speaking, Malayan and entrepôt requirements of manufactured goods are imported in bulk by the larger European import houses either for distribution in smaller quantities to entrepôt markets, for stock or for the accounts of local wholesale/retail distributors. Similarly, a large percentage of bulk export of Straits produce such as rubber, copra, forest products, spices, tea and coffee passes through these firms.

A high proportion of the entrepôt trade in produce is transacted by Chinese merchants. The Indian business community specialises in textiles and sundry goods, and to a lesser extent in fancy goods, spices and foodstuffs. Numerous factory representatives who supervise local agencies and distributors are centred on Singapore. Many medium and small-sized firms, mostly Chinese-owned and

IMPORTS & EXPORTS OF SINGAPORE

(including Trade with Federation of Malaya)



1955 IMPORTS

FOREIGN TRADE OF SINGAPORE

(Gross Value Added)

Percentage of Total Value in (\$ million)

21.2 608.6

5.9 165.6

5.2 150.4

3.2 92.3

3.2 91.1

2.7 76.8

2.3 67.7

1.9 53.7

2.2 64.4

52.2 1,494.8

100%

2,865.4

TOTAL IMPORTS, 1955

Total Imports, 1954 \$2,330.1 millions

*Total Imports, 1953 \$2,343.2 Millions

Notes:— Trade with Federation of Malaya is not included in this chart.
*Excluding Parcel Post.

BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES

(Malayan Dollars)

1955 EXPORTS

	Value in (\$ million)	Percentage of Total
	1,384.1	49.7
	202.2	7.3
	130.0	4.7
	58.0	2.1
	20.4	0.7
	35.3	1.3
	28.8	1.0
	63.3	2.3
	7.7	0.3
	17.4	0.6
	834.6	30.0
TOTAL EXPORTS, 1955	2,781.8	100%

Total Exports, 1954 \$2,054.3 millions

*Total Exports, 1953 \$1,990.9 millions

1955

1954

1953

1955 IMPORTS

FOREIGN TRADE OF SINGAPORE BY PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES

(Gross Value in Millions of Malaysian Dollars)

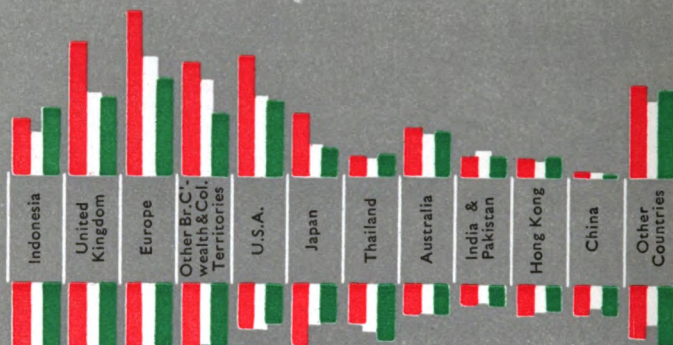
Value in (\$ million)

Percentage of total

35.6	1,018.9
13.8	395.3
8.3	236.9
10.0	286.6
4.5	130.9
6.8	194.2
3.9	112.6
3.2	91.5
2.1	60.6
3.2	92.0
3.2	91.2
5.4	154.7
100%	2,865.4

TOTAL IMPORTS, 1955

Total Imports, 1954 \$2,330.1 millions
*Total Imports, 1953 \$2,343.2 millions



188.4	6.8
437.6	15.7
541.5	19.5
373.4	13.4
396.7	14.3
198.6	7.1
59.8	2.1
158.3	5.7
64.1	2.3
52.5	1.9
10.8	0.4
300.1	10.8
2,781.8	100%

TOTAL EXPORTS, 1955

Total Exports, 1954 \$2,054.3 millions
*Total Exports, 1953 \$1,990.9 millions

Notes:— Trade with the Federation of Malaya is not included in this chart.
*Excluding Parcel Post.

1955

1954

1953

either buying for their own account for stock, or selling for principals on commission, and numerous indenting agents who place orders either for direct delivery or for execution through overseas confirming houses, handle a large volume of business.

A special feature of Singapore is its concentration of dealers in every conceivable manufacture and commodity; they are able to import in bulk at competitive prices for internal distribution and for re-export on small or assorted orders. Produce dealers purchase small parcels of the products of South-East Asia for re-sale to the bigger export houses, who maintain expert facilities for sorting, grading and repacking for bulk export to world markets.

The Singapore, Chinese and Indian Chambers of Commerce, and other trade and produce associations, take an active and valuable part in the commercial life of the Colony.

REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES AND TRADE MARKS

The commercial laws of Singapore is largely based on that of the United Kingdom with certain reservations and alterations to suit the special type of business carried on in the Colony.

The Companies Ordinance, 1940, is based upon the United Kingdom Companies Act of 1929. The Ordinance provides for the registration of ordinary companies, banks, insurance companies and foreign companies with limited liability. Insurance companies carrying out certain types of business are required to lodge a bond with the Government as a safeguard against inability to pay certain kinds of claim. All limited liability companies are required to deposit in the office of the Registrar their annual statement of accounts, a list of shareholders and a statement of directors and particulars of any changes. At the end of 1955 there were 1,471 companies registered in the Registry of Companies, Trade Marks and Patents. Amongst these were 28 banks and 139 insurance companies.

Businesses other than those with limited liability are required to register under the provisions of the Business Names Ordinance, 1940. If a partnership or a sole proprietor carries on business in a name other than their or his own, the true names of all concerned must be supplied. These records are open to inspection by the general public. At the end of 1955 there were 22,899 firms or businesses registered under this Ordinance.

Trade marks and patents are protected as in the United Kingdom. There are arrangements between the Colony and the adjacent territories of the Federation and North Borneo so that an importer

or a local trader may be given the maximum protection in the manner of his trading over the whole area. The Ordinances in these territories are almost identical. At the present time there are about 14,200 trade marks on the register from all parts of the world and protection is given to about 450 patents.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Singapore took part in a number of international conferences during the year. Singapore was represented as a member of the Malaya and British Borneo Group at the 7th Session of the E.C.A.F.E. Committee on Industry and Trade, and the 11th Plenary Session of E.C.A.F.E. in Tokyo from 17th March to 7th April, 1955. The meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee was held in Singapore from 21st September to 23rd October, 1955; the Hon. Mr. David Marshall, Chief Minister of Singapore, was leader of the Singapore delegation. A representative was also sent to the F.A.O. Rice Conference held in Bangkok from 30th September to 7th October, 1955.

TRADE REPRESENTATION

The Trade Commissioner for Malaya in the United Kingdom whose address is Malaya House, 57 Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2 is able to deal with all trade enquiries affecting the Governments of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya.

VII

PRODUCTION

GOOD AGRICULTURAL land is scarce though the Government is still continuing surveys of Crown and alienated land to provide land for resettlement of farmers displaced from areas required for industrial development.

During the year more secondary industries have begun operation and established industries have made steady progress.

LAND UTILIZATION AND TENURE

The Colony (including Christmas Island) has a total area of 286.50 square miles. The use of land in Singapore is controlled by the Singapore Improvement Trust which has planning powers over the whole Island under the Singapore Improvement Ordinance. A full description of the activities of the Singapore Improvement Trust is to be found in Chapter VIII. The City Council and the Rural Board have zoning powers under by-laws and regulations made under the Municipal Ordinance. Forests and water catchment areas are under the control of a Board of Trustees appointed under the Nature Reserves Ordinance.

After the founding of Singapore in 1819 and prior to the Treaty of the 2nd August, 1824, which ceded Singapore to the East India Company, the uncertain tenure of the East India Company precluded the issue of permanent titles. From 1826 leases were granted for periods of 999 years, but in 1838 leases for terms up to 99 years were substituted as the common title for land within the town limits. Land in the country was also obtainable on short term leases as laid down by Indian Act XVI of 1839 but the terms failed to encourage proper cultivation and from 1845 onwards freehold titles were granted for such land. Many freehold titles in the most crowded parts of the city originated in this manner as insufficient allowance was made for the town's expansion.

LAND UTILIZATION

	<i>Singapore and surrounding islands</i> (sq. miles)	<i>Christmas Islands</i> (sq. miles)	<i>Total</i> (sq. miles)
Built-on area including Roads, Railways and Airfields	60.58	0.26	60.84
Agricultural land	55.70	0.05	55.75
Unused land but potentially productive for agriculture	46.93	—	46.93
Wood and Forest land	15.00	61.05	76.05
Permanent waste land (marshes and tidal swamps)	18.28	—	18.28
Inland waters	4.95	0.02	4.97
Other land (open spaces, public parks, gardens, cemeteries, quarries and non-built on areas in Imperial Establishment)	23.06	0.62	23.68
Totals ...	224.50	62.00	286.50

Singapore was transferred to the control of the Colonial Office in 1867, and the titles for land, both in town and country thereafter were mainly leases for terms of 99 or 999 years. In 1886 the Crown Lands Ordinance introduced a statutory form of title—the present statutory land grant, which is a grant in perpetuity, subject to a quit rent and subject also to various conditions. This statutory grant until recently continued to be the usual form of title issued; but the present policy is to restrict the issue of grants in perpetuity, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. The issue of grants in fee simple is restricted to special cases.

In recent years, with increasing development in all areas of the Island and the great rise in land values, there has been a tendency for the small fruit and vegetable growers to be driven off the land. As a counter measure the Government has issued permits renewable annually for the temporary occupation of Crown land. This has had a marked effect in keeping the small cultivators on the land. Approval has recently been given to the issue of agricultural leases of 30 or 60 years on favourable terms in order to encourage more permanent improvement.

TENURE OF LAND

<i>Nature of Title</i>	<i>No. of titles</i>	<i>Area in acres</i>
Freehold (indentures, grants, grants-in-fee-simple)	2,199	19,453
Statutory Land Grants	4,821	839,446
Leases for 999 years	3,631	12,212
Leases for 99 years or less	2,493	4,981

There are no restrictions in regard to ownership of land by aliens or non-aliens, indigenous or non-indigenous inhabitants. There is, however, a Malay Settlement at Jalan Eunus of some 100 acres of Crown land, which is reserved for letting to Malays on temporary permits subject to certain regulations.

Land administration in the Colony is carried out by the Commissioner of Lands and his staff. The main functions of the Land Office are the alienation of land, collection of land revenue, registration of deeds, acquisition of land for public purposes and resettlement. There is little Crown land left in the urban areas and the position has been reached in which development is almost impossible without the acquisition of privately owned land. During the year the Land Office compulsorily acquired 951 acres of land at a cost of \$5,383,438 and purchased by private treaty a further 697 acres at a cost of \$4,132,893. Revenue collected in 1955 amounted to \$3,973,216 against departmental expenditure of \$519,148.

During the year, Mr. John Baalman, an expert on the Torrens system of registration of title, was invited to assist the Government to draft the Land Titles Bill. In addition Dr. J. F. N. Murray was invited to recommend proposals for controlling land prices and to draft legislation to ensure that community created values would be retained by all the people of the Colony.

Cadastral surveys for alienation, registration of deeds, acquisitions and subdivisions under the Singapore Improvement Ordinance are carried out by, or under the supervision of, the Government Survey Department. This is a Pan-Malayan department with its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and a Chief Surveyor with technical staff of 100 in Singapore. The number of holdings surveyed during 1955 was 5,139 bringing the number surveyed to modern standards of accuracy up to 38,666. Other holdings not accurately surveyed amount to 11,698. Copies of cadastral sheets are available to the public from the Survey Office.

LAND DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

The survey of lands suitable for food production was continued during 1955. Twenty separate areas, totalling 9,080 acres were examined by aerial photographs and field inspection. Moreover 1,576 acres were mapped in detail and 2,744 acres were designed for settlement into farm lots, residential lots and in one case for

industrial use. A further 1,285 acres were pegged out for occupation and levels were run along 1,500 chains of road for design and construction. This section also assisted the Drainage and Irrigation Department by determining levels over a length of 11 miles.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

The Surveyor-General, Malaya, is responsible for the topographical survey of the Colony. The most recent map of Singapore is the 1953 provisional edition in 12 sheets on a scale of 1/25,000. Copies may be obtained from the Chief Surveyor, Singapore. Forty square miles of this map were revised from 1953 air photography and checked in the field.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in Singapore is largely concentrated upon the growing of vegetables for local consumption. The short storage life of tropical green vegetables makes it essential that production is undertaken in close proximity to the market.

1955—TABLE OF ACREAGES AND PRODUCTION

		<i>Acreages</i>	<i>Production</i>
Rubber	...	15,820	1,670 tons
Coconuts	...	7,700	15 million nuts
Mixed Vegetables	...	3,425	13,700 tons
Root Crops	...	1,903	7,612 „
Fruit Trees	...	3,480	1,350 „
Tobacco	...	331	445 „
Derris	...	20	2.5 „
Pepper	...	26	5.6 „
Pineapples	...	485	—

The number of persons engaged in agriculture is approximately 16,500, of which some 15,000 are Chinese smallholders who cultivate the low-lying areas of fertile soil usually with the help of the entire family: about two-thirds of the vegetables grown in Singapore are produced on these farms. The remaining 1,500 workers are employed on rubber and coconut estates. The Agricultural Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry advises cultivators on such matters as soil use, pest control and improved methods of cultivation.

Vegetables

Although the supply of locally-grown vegetables is adequate for the population of the Island, it is still necessary to import considerable quantities of vegetables from temperate climates as it has not as yet been possible, to cultivate them locally.

In the early part of the year, the supply of local vegetables was severely curtailed due to the after-effects of the 1954 floods. The result was a great increase in prices. Recovery was gradual, and conditions were back to normal by April.

During the year about 1,000 acres of land were divided into smallholdings and settled by squatters displaced by building activities in other parts of the Island. Since, in general, the squatters' new holdings are larger than their old ones, a net increase in food supplies is expected as this resettlement proceeds.

Rubber, Coconuts and Tobacco

The acreage of land under rubber is relatively large although the yield is not significant. Generally, soils in Singapore are not sufficiently fertile to produce good crops and the standard of maintenance is below average. The total area under rubber is 15,820 acres and this is more or less evenly divided between estates and smallholdings. The former produce a high grade of ribbed smoked sheet, and the latter mainly unsmoked sheet of very poor quality.

Coconuts are only grown on a large scale in the eastern area. Production elsewhere is on smallholdings, where the shade under the trees provides an excellent environment for livestock. The yield of nuts is normally less than 2,000 per acre. The higher quality nuts are eaten fresh, while those of small size and low quality are sold for copra production.

Tobacco is a popular crop with the upland vegetable farmers. There is no duty on locally-grown leaf and prices realised are good. The monthly average production of 50,000 lb. of dried leaf is blended with imported tobacco for the manufacture of cheaper brands of cigarettes.

Fruit

Infertile soils and an unfavourable climate limit the production of fruit to part-time growers. The main crops are rambutan, mangosteen, carambola, durian and pineapple, although limes, purasan, jack-fruit and a variety of other fruits are also grown. All fruit produced is consumed locally.

Marketing

The dispersal of vegetable growers over scattered smallholdings makes orderly marketing extremely difficult. At present, middlemen buy the farmers' product at collecting centres or at the roadside, and sell it either at the wholesale market in the city or direct to stall-holders.

This system is gradually changing, as farmers join together to form co-operative marketing societies, thus increasing their collective bargaining power, and in due course it should be possible for them to arrange to sell direct to the wholesalers and stall-holders in the market.

Research

The results of research work in the Federation of Malaya are readily available to field officers in Singapore. Specimens of pests and diseases are sent to the Federation for examination. In addition to analysing fertiliser and feeding stuffs the Department of Chemistry is available to examine and give advice on the use and dangers of the numerous toxic pesticides used in food production.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Introduction

Veterinary services are divided between the Government Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the City Council Veterinary Department. The latter department is responsible for clinical work at the newly built modern animal infirmary at Kampong Java Road and the provision of advisory work associated with meat inspection and other duties. Details of work done by the City Council Veterinary Department are published in a separate report.

Development Programme

During the year it was decided to decentralise the Government Division to enable closer liaison to be maintained in the rural areas. This policy is given practical effect through mobile extension services operating from a number of rural stations on which field staff will live. The first station commenced operation during the year at Lim Chu Kang. Construction of a second station at Sembawang was delayed but work on it will commence in the near future.

Work on the Henderson Road quarantine station will also soon be put in hand.

Lim Chu Kang Station

The first consignment of livestock for this station was obtained in the first half of the year from local sources and from Australia; the progeny are now coming forward and distribution should commence in early 1956.

Stud Services

This work has commenced on a limited basis as most of the breeding stock were purchased very young. Farmers were however able to send their sows for stud purposes; and breeding poultry were also sold. The result of cross breeding local sows and imported boars was very successful; the progeny gained weight rapidly and produced a leaner carcase meat. The cross breeds made an immediate appeal to both farmers and butchers and the demand for extension of this work is increasing.

Disease Control

Ranikhet vaccination rose to a record figure of 4,018,481 birds including 24,576 vaccinated by the new 'H' intranasal vaccine. This proved to be very successful; no infection occurred after vaccination.

Other diseases of poultry included Fowl Pox, Infectious Laryngo- Tracheitis, Coccidiosis and Helminthiasis, the latter though extremely prevalent can be controlled by appropriate drugs. There was no evidence of Bacillary White Diarrhoea among Chinese hatcheries.

The incidence of diseases of swine is very high and evidence of Swine Fever again shows that this is probably fairly widespread. The behaviour of Swine Fever viral disease is still imperfectly understood; mortality is heavy in certain premises but low in others. Research is continuing and the use of vaccines and sera from the United States and Britain has proved successful in controlling the disease; 6,188 pigs were given treatment generally with good results.

Supply of Meat

Cattle and sheep for local consumption were imported on hoof mainly from Australia, the Federation of Malaya and Indonesia.

They were subject to close quarantine supervision by the Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered in 1955:—

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT CITY ABATTOIRS 1955						
Country of Origin	Oxen	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Swine	Total
Singapore	2,327	66	—	1,776	310,088	314,257
Australia	—	—	63,868	—	—	63,868
Federation of Malaya ..	—	24	—	—	42,709	42,733
Indonesia	1,956	601	—	—	2,284	4,841
Siam	—	1,791	—	—	—	1,791
Total	4,283	2,482	63,868	1,776	355,081	427,490

FORESTRY

In spite of its lack of forests Singapore is a major centre for the production of sawn timber and plywood. There are twenty-five large sawmills, one large plywood factory and several smaller mills and woodworking plants. All the mills are owned by Chinese and are operated almost exclusively by Chinese labour. The output varies from about 60 to 5 tons of sawn timber per day.

Most of the logs come from the Federation of Malaya, the balance are brought by *tongkangs* from East Sumatra, Sarawak and North Borneo. Supplies were again irregular throughout 1955, and some mills had to work part-time when stocks ran down. The export of logs and heavy hardwoods such as *chengal*, *balau* and *merbau* continued to be prohibited.

Local demand for sawn timber was slack in the early part of the year but overseas demand was brisk throughout the year, particularly for graded timber. Over 240,000 man-hours were lost during the strikes which affected all the sawmills. The quantity of sawn timber exported increased to 69,405 tons against 62,191 tons in 1954. The vacuum-pressure impregnation plant which was opened in 1954 continued operation throughout 1955 and produced considerable quantities of impregnated timber both for local use and for export.

Both graded and ungraded timber is exported from Singapore. When graded timber is specified, it is graded under the Malayan Grading Rules for Sawn Hardwood Timber either by timber graders of the Forest Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry,

or privately. In the latter case a percentage of the timber is check-graded by Government graders. The principal timbers graded were *Keruing* (*Dipterocarpus* spp.), *Kapur* (*Dryobalanops* spp.), *Meranti* (soft *Shorea* spp.), *Nyato* (species of *Sapotaceae*), *Kampas* (*Koompassia malaccensis*), and *Mengkuang* (*Tarrietia* spp.). There was a marked increase in exports to Australia, New Zealand and U.S.A.

Exports of sawn timber to the principal markets are given in the table below:—

PRINCIPAL MARKETS FOR GRADED AND UNGRADED TIMBER SAWN IN SINGAPORE, 1954 AND 1955

(In tons of 50 cubic feet)

Destination	Graded	1954 Un- graded	Total	Graded	1955 Un- graded	Total
Australia ..	7,373	790	8,163	10,944	1,290	12,284
Mauritius ..	—	10,750	10,758	114	10,482	10,596
United Kingdom ..	12,126	—	12,126	9,568	—	9,568
Aden ..	372	8,464	8,836	120	8,425	8,545
Indonesia ..	—	3,618	3,618	53	5,501	5,554
New Zealand ..	2,451	—	2,451	5,109	—	5,109
Iraq ..	2,244	3,886	6,130	68	4,434	4,502
Bahrein ..	10	2,415	2,425	39	3,362	3,401
Arabia ..	—	2,594	2,594	15	2,625	2,650
U.S.A. ..	17	—	17	2,228	—	2,228
20 other countries ..	3,537	1,536	5,073	3,439	1,529	4,968
	28,130	34,061	62,191	31,747	37,658	69,405

The value of exports of timber totalled \$12,479,019 against \$10,204,920 in 1954.

The Singapore Government offered to member governments of the Colombo Plan facilities for instruction in the grading of sawn timber under the Malayan Grading Rules and Indonesia sent three students during the year for a three months course.

FISHERIES

The fishing grounds exploited by local fishermen extend from the inshore areas around Singapore to the offshore areas in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. The main inshore fishing methods are *kelongs* and other fixed traps, various types of lines, beach seines, push nets and drift nets. In the offshore areas pair trawls, long lines, troll lines and drift nets are used. In addition

many fishermen are engaged in the trapping of prawns and estuarine fish from swamps which have been converted into brackish water ponds. Others are engaged in the culture of carp and other fish in fresh water ponds.

The number of licensed fishermen employed in the industry was 5,753 of whom about 70 per cent were Chinese and 30 per cent Malays and others. In 1954 the corresponding total was 6,023. The number of gears licensed was 1,976 and that of boats 3,077. Of the latter 21 per cent were powered vessels representing an aggregate of 2,634 tons. Mechanisation is progressing and many old vessels were replaced by new ones.

Capital is provided by the producer himself or through wholesale agents and dealers. A few large companies were formed to undertake offshore fishery projects. Among the small fishermen there is a growing consciousness of the need to lower the cost of production by co-operative purchase of fishery requirements and by sales of their catches on a co-operative basis.

Fresh fish is landed at various points on the Island and auctioned at two City Council and three private wholesale markets. Auctions are conducted by wholesale agents who receive a commission from the fishermen and pay a fee to the market owner.

AMOUNT OF FISH HANDLED BY AUCTION MARKETS

(tons)

	1953	1954	1955
Local production	4,537.4	4,260.3	4,358.5
Imports from Indonesia	1,935.9	1,741.0	1,603.2
Imports from Burma, Borneo, Thailand, Hongkong and India	191.1	134.0	33.3
Imports from Federation of Malaya ...	3,379.9	3,907.7	3,653.5
	10,044.3	10,043.0	9,648.5

Local production has almost reached a peak and further increase in output is unlikely unless more distant fishing grounds are exploited.

There are about fifty retail outlets in the City area and about twenty-five in the rural area. In all there are over 1,000 fish retailers distributed roughly as follows:—

(i) Market retailers	...	...	50 per cent.
(ii) Hawkers	...	...	40 per cent.
(iii) Shop retailers	...	...	10 per cent.

It is estimated that about 85 per cent of the fish is retailed in the City area and the remainder in the rural area. The fish is sold fresh and little use is made of cold storage facilities. Small amounts of certain types such as *bilis*, *tamban* and *selar* are boiled and sold as boiled fish during seasons of glut.

AVERAGE PRICES OF FRESH FISH

(per kati)

		1954		1955	
		Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail
		\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Bawal Putih	...	1 89	2 56	2 07	2 62
Bawal Hitam	...	1 31	1 49	1 30	1 46
Kurau	...	1 76	2 71	1 65	2 55
Senangin	...	1 40	1 59	1 44	1 63
Tenggiri	...	1 24	1 42	1 32	1 50
Belanak	...	1 09	1 26	1 16	1 31
Merah	...	0 46	0 69	0 47	0 65
Chencharu	...	0 52	0 67	0 58	0 72
Talang	...	0 30	0 45	0 36	0 49
Parang parang	...	1 12	1 28	1 22	1 38
Terubok	...	0 74	0 89	0 47	0 62
Yu	...	0 28	0 46	0 32	0 47
Pari	...	0 22	0 37	0 26	0 40
Prawns (large)	...	2 52	2 86	2 29	2 71
Gelama	...	0 31	0 47	0 31	0 46
Bilis	...	0 41	0 58	0 44	0 60
Kembong	...	0 56	0 72	0 53	0 69
Selar	...	1 05	1 22	1 10	1 24
Tamban	...	0 26	0 40	0 28	0 42
Ikan Buat Baja	...	0 13	0 19	0 14	0 21

(One kati equals $1\frac{1}{4}$ imperial pounds).

Singapore serves as the entrepôt for salt fish as well as other marine produce. Imports of salt fish come mainly from the Federation of Malaya, Thailand, Cambodia and Riouw. The dried fish are sorted, re-dried and then repacked in Singapore for despatch mainly to Indonesia. The large entrepôt trade in salt fish has declined considerably because of restrictive measures imposed by importing countries.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF DRIED SALT FISH

		1953		1954		1955	
		Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
			\$		\$		\$
Imports	..	30,441	19,669,755	14,847	9,760,853	9,981	7,412,828
Exports	..	28,690	25,523,289	13,322	12,891,103	6,882	7,625,145

Imports in other marine products such as *bêche-de-mer*, *blachan*, seaweed, fish maws, sharks' fins, green snail and trochus shell and canned fish including canned salmon and canned sardine amounted to 7,607.49 tons valued at \$12,540,209 and exports totalled 4,542.49 tons valued at \$9,337,941 during the year.

Local production is actively encouraged by the introduction of improved techniques, new methods and materials and the application of the results of scientific research. Government is also actively engaged in raising the standard of living of the local fishermen and in assisting them to meet the changing conditions within the industry.

The utilisation of swamps for the production of fish and prawns is encouraged. Two experimental ponds were constructed at a cost of \$12,840.63 towards the end of 1954 and during the year these ponds yielded 8,613 katies of fish and prawns which were sold by auction for \$8,194.66. The results are encouraging and the experiments are continuing.

The Regional Fisheries Research Station, a project financed in part from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and in part by the Governments of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak, British North Borneo and Brunei, was completed during the year. This station is under the direction of Dr. F. D. Ommanney. The research vessel *Manihine* arrived from the United Kingdom after re-fitting. It is hoped that the research work of this station will ultimately contribute towards the fuller development of the fishing industries of these territories.

The Fisheries Loans Fund and Fishing Materials Purchase Account assisted fishermen in the purchase of fishing gear and vessels. The mobile fisheries unit continued its operation in instructing the fishermen on the maintenance and repair of their boat engines. Many fishermen are now able to maintain their engines in good condition thus increasing their fishing time at sea.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The progress of industrial development continued in spite of the labour unrest in Singapore during 1955.

The rubber remilling industry continued to encounter difficulties in the supply of raw materials following the restrictions placed by the Indonesian authorities on the export of slab rubber in October



Public Relations



SECONDARY INDUSTRIES ARE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT AND INCREASING ROLE IN THE ECONOMY OF SINGAPORE

Top—Women workers at work in a canvas-rubber shoe factory

Left—A machine at work in a paint and varnish factory



last year. The amount of crude rubber imported from Indonesia, particularly Sumatra, fell to 76,800 tons against 129,200 tons in 1954. As a result of dwindling supplies 2 mills suspended production and the remaining 8 factories operated at a greatly reduced capacity. The total labour force was reduced to 2,360 compared with 2,750 in 1954, and output of remilled rubber fell to 72,097 tons against 102,749 tons in 1954.

Rubber footwear production continued to expand and output reached 3,747,700 pairs of shoes compared with 2,903,200 pairs produced in 1954. Most of the exports were shipped to the traditional entrepôt market, although some shoes reached new markets in the Middle-East.

The production of beer and stout at the two local breweries, and mineral waters and non-carbonated soft drinks at eighteen local factories continued at a satisfactory level. The demand for soft drinks was good and although one factory closed down total production was maintained at 1,083.8 million oz. Output of sweetened soft drinks was 1,026.2 million oz. against 1,096.3 million oz. in 1954 and soda water was 57.6 million oz. against 54.1 million oz. in 1954. One new factory producing soyabean milk began operation during the year. Samsu is distilled locally by two distilleries.

The local demand for biscuits was about the same as for 1954 but production was affected by new Customs duties introduced by the Federation of Malaya. Total production from 11 factories fell to 283,200 cwt. compared with 301,500 cwt. in 1954.

The pineapple industry showed an expansion in production. A record figure of 411,200 cases was produced against 375,400 cases in 1954. The total value of exports reached \$27,171,000 compared with \$23,461,000 in 1954, and the total volume increased to 25,900 tons against 19,890 tons in 1954. The bulk of the exports went to the United Kingdom.

Production of tin containers is undertaken by a local concern which supplies all the tin containers required by the pineapple and the boot polish industries.

The local glass manufacturers produce aerated water and beer bottles, tumblers, bowls and fancy glassware which are sold locally and exported overseas to Australia, Ceylon, Burma and Hongkong.

The manufacture of paints, varnishes and distempers by Singapore's paint factory continued on an increased scale to supply rising local and overseas demand.

Factories for the manufacture of pencils, metal window frames, galvanised tanks, cinema carbons, perfumes, cosmetics and cigarettes continued to supply the local market and all the yarn produced in Singapore's yarn spinning mill was exported to Indonesia, South Africa, Australia and South Korea.

Soap manufacturers were unable to maintain the 1954 production because of very strong competition from imported soap powder and detergents. Total production fell slightly to 254,300 cwt. compared with 262,200 cwt. in 1954. There was a corresponding fall in the production of coconut oil, and 33,657 tons were produced compared with 37,745 tons in 1954.

Total exports of refined tin from the Pulau Brani smelter amounted to 33,320 tons valued at \$202.2 millions compared with 33,260 tons valued at \$195.9 millions in 1954.

Cottage industries in Singapore are of minor importance. The main products are buckets, pottery, fish nets, incense, wood carving and silver work.

Sites for industrial development are available at Princess Elizabeth Estate and Queenstown. Basic facilities such as light, power and water supplies, and good roads are available in these industrial estates. The Singapore Improvement Trust and the Colonial Development Corporation are planning to build workshops and terrace-type factories to cater for the needs of small-scale manufacturers.

QUARRYING AND BRICK-MAKING

There are no mines in Singapore, but granite is found in the centre of the Island and on Pulau Ubin. There were 13 quarries in operation and total production was approximately 554,000 cubic yards compared with 541,000 cubic yards in 1954.

The brick-making industry is expanding very rapidly as the result of the building boom in Singapore. Production by 14 brickworks reached a new record of approximately 63 million bricks, an increase of 23.5 per cent compared with 51 million bricks in 1954.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

There was a steady increase in the number of societies during the year. The increase was equally distributed between the credit societies and the Chinese farmers societies.

The co-operative principle is becoming more widely accepted as more people come to realise the advantages of co-operation.

The increase in the Chinese farmers societies is encouraging as difficulties such as illiteracy, clannishness, etc. must first be overcome. During the year four such societies were registered; two were marketing societies and the other two credit societies.

The Malay population in the islands have shown equal interest in the movement and four new thrift and investment societies have been registered during the year.

In the past the co-operative movement spread mainly through the formation of thrift and credit societies. The formation of other types of societies such as the marketing societies of farmers and fishermen, consumers' societies, and retail co-operative societies have gained much ground in the co-operative movement.

The Singapore Co-operative Conveyance Society, the first of its kind, was registered in December 1955. The main object of the Society is to provide cheap transport for school children.

The following table shows the number of societies in Singapore:—

				<i>Number of Societies</i>	
				<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Thrift and Loan, Credit and similar Societies	...	...	...	53	60
Consumer Societies	...	...	...	4	4
Marketing Societies	...	...	...	3	5
Housing Society	...	...	...	1	1
Conveyance Society	...	...	...	—	1
Total				61	71

VIII

PLANNING AND HOUSING

THE SINGAPORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST, a statutory organisation constituted under the Singapore Improvement Ordinance (Chapter 134) in 1927, is the over-all planning authority for Singapore as well as the Government's official public housing agency. The Ordinance originally provided for a Board of Trustees, eleven in number, with the President of the City Council as Chairman, four *ex officio* trustees and six nominated trustees. In February 1955 the Ordinance was amended to introduce flexibility in the appointment of the Chairman, who is to be appointed by the Governor in Council for a specified term not exceeding three years.

The Manager of the Trust is the chief executive officer, and to deal with the large volume of business various committees are constituted to deal respectively with planning, building, finance, estates and personnel matters. The Trust's main sources of revenue, other than the rents of housing estates, are a 2 per cent improvement rate levied on City property and an equivalent contribution from the Government. Estate development has, since 1948, been dependent on Government loan funds, which at the end of 1955, represented a stake in public housing of \$95.9 millions.

In April 1955, on the introduction of the ministerial system of Government under the Rendel Constitution, the Trust came under the portfolio of the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing.

PLANNING

Although certain by-laws relating to residential areas, garages, warehouses and so on are operated by the City Council, control of the use of land is the direct responsibility of the Singapore Improvement Trust. In discharging its functions, the Trust works in close co-operation with central and local government departments, and is represented on various co-ordinating committees set up by

the Government, such as the Planning Co-ordination Committee, the Kallang Basin and Aerodrome Redevelopment Committee and the Singapore River Working Committee.

General Improvement Plan and Improvement Schemes

Since the inception of the Trust, the General Improvement Plan, which relates to the whole Island and is operated under the provisions of the Singapore Improvement Ordinance, has been the statutory record and control plan, on which all improvement schemes including additions and alterations, approvals of private lay-outs and permitted new uses of any land or building, are recorded.

During the year private lay-outs and development schemes approved by the Trust numbered 712 and involved 7,042 buildings (as against 679 involving 5,014 buildings in 1954). The Covent Garden Improvement Scheme, proposed by the Trust to clear up a predominantly insanitary area, was approved by the Government. Twelve additions to the General Improvement Plan for major road improvements, gyratory traffic schemes, roundabouts, car parks and bus stations were approved by the Board of the Trust, and were being prepared for public advertisement at the close of the year. Plans for the comprehensive redevelopment of certain town blocks were also approved.

The Master Plan

The General Improvement Plan, however, does not purport to give a comprehensive pattern for development of the Colony as a whole, and in 1951 the Singapore Improvement Ordinance was amended to enable the Trust "to carry out a diagnostic survey of the Colony" and prepare a Master Plan "indicating the manner in which it proposes that land in the Colony should be used (whether by the carrying out thereon of development or otherwise) and the stages by which any such development should be carried out." Work on the preparation of the Master Plan began in 1952 with a comprehensive programme of surveys covering the following fields: general land uses in central, suburban and rural areas; areas used for temporary and attap buildings; volume of traffic passing over important roads and car parking facilities; industrial and building resources. With material provided by these surveys, the Master Plan was prepared and submitted to the Government in November 1955. The Master Plan with all its documents will be displayed in a public exhibition early in the new year, and a public

enquiry held into objections lodged by persons who consider their interests to be injuriously affected by the Plan, before the Plan can be approved by the Government.

The Master Plan includes proposals for the redevelopment of the central City area, for the controlling of urban development and for the planning of rural areas. These proposals are contained in three maps: the Central Area Map, the Town Map and the Colony Map, which are supplemented by a series of Programme Maps indicating the proposed stages of development. The Master Plan is supported by a Written Statement which provides the necessary descriptive matter and a Report of Survey setting out the results of the surveys and reasons for the proposals contained in the Plan.

HOUSING

Housing for the civilian population in Singapore has been provided by three agencies; the Singapore Improvement Trust, certain public authorities which build quarters for their staff and private enterprise.

The Singapore Improvement Trust

In 1955 the Trust, as in previous years, was responsible for well over half the total volume of housing completed. It functions as the official Government agency for public housing in the Colony.

Since its inception in 1927 until 1936 the Trust had made very limited contribution to new housing, and any contribution it made was largely concomitant to its improvement schemes. By 1936, however, a definite housing shortage had become apparent, especially among the working classes, and the Trust began building low-cost accommodation mainly for this class of the population. Before 1942 the Trust had constructed 2,049 dwellings comprising 793 flats, 779 houses, 477 tenant rooms and 54 shops.

The large inflow of population and lack of authorised building during the Japanese occupation produced serious overcrowding, and the housing shortage on resumption of the Civil Government in 1946 became acute with building costs at a very high level. But research into economical methods of planning and construction produced designs that allowed rentals at a figure within the reach of large numbers of those in urgent need of accommodation. The Trust therefore began building again towards the end of 1946, and has since continued to build at an ever-increasing rate. Many different types of dwellings have been produced with a variety of structural schemes, most of them the result of the Trust's own



THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT COMPLETED MANY BUILDING PROJECTS IN 1955
Public Relations & Tong Photo Service
 Top—A new ward block at Kandang Kerbau Hospital



research and experiment and ranging from single-storey terrace quarters to nine-storey blocks of flats. Rentals of the post-war properties range from \$22 to \$99 per month.

Statistically, the year was a most successful one, production being almost 50 per cent higher than the best of previous years. The actual number of completions was 2,907 comprising 1,342 flats, 1,322 houses, 131 tenements, 112 shops and 6 markets. Up to the end of 1955 the Trust had completed a total of 14,319 dwelling units and 615 shops including its pre-war developments. These figures include building at Queenstown, Singapore's first new suburb, which has proceeded apace with the completion of 1,172 dwelling units on Princess Estate, the first neighbourhood unit, where three primary schools, a junior technical school and an office-cum-community block, are also under construction. In addition, there were a further 1,267 dwelling units and 8 shops under construction at the end of the year.

The fall in building costs experienced during 1954 did not continue into 1955, during which prices began increasing steadily, apparently as a result of the increase in the price of certain imported building materials, particularly steel and cement, and of strikes and general industrial unrest. The most stringent measures have been, and are being, taken by the Trust in planning, design and construction to counteract the effect of high building costs and to keep rentals of Trust properties at the minimum level possible. And with the subsidy policy introduced by the Government in 1954, whereby the cost of land plus the building of roads, drains and services over and above \$25,000 per acre for any Trust public housing scheme is financed from public revenue, it has been possible for the Trust to maintain the target monthly rentals of \$50 and below for permanent dwellings and \$30 and below for semi-permanent dwellings.

Two new housing projects were approved by the Government during the latter part of the year, and will be undertaken by the Trust. One is a new building programme which will provide 4,391 low-cost flat units (i.e. with monthly rentals not exceeding \$50) at an estimated cost of about \$24,000,000, and at the same time serve to clear and redevelop the congested slums of the central area of the City. The other is a pilot scheme for the construction of 200 low-rental houses (not exceeding \$30 per month), which will serve as the basis for the planning of future rural housing schemes.

Public Authorities' Housing

The City Council and the Singapore Harbour Board provide housing for many of their employees and the Public Works Department for Government personnel.

PUBLICLY OWNED HOUSES

	<i>Dwelling Units</i>	<i>Constructed in 1955</i>	
		<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total units to end of 1955</i>
		\$	
Singapore Improvement Trust ...	2,795	10.0 million	12,291
Public Works Department ...	675	4.0 „	7,875
City Council ...	26	0.2 „	4,368
Singapore Harbour Board ...	36	0.4 „	5,598

In addition the Armed Services provide quarters for many locally engaged civilians, and it is estimated that about 20,000 civilians are so housed.

Private Building

The erection of private buildings is controlled by the City Council for the City area and by the Rural Board for the rural areas in accordance with building regulations and by-laws administered by the two authorities. The City Council has been working on a revision of its building by-laws, and expect to be able to bring the revised by-laws into force during 1956.

PRIVATE BUILDINGS

	<i>1954</i>		<i>1955</i>	
	<i>City</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Plans approved ...	1,977	563	1,965	526
Buildings completed ...	678	1,667	1,381	1,668

The substantial contribution of private enterprise towards the solution of the Colony's housing problem continued. In the City area 1,189 residential buildings comprising 1,386 dwelling units, and in the rural areas 1,584 residential buildings comprising 1,816 dwelling units, were erected.

A scheme introduced by the Government in 1953 for advancing loans to its employees for the purchase of houses up to 95 per cent of their cost through a building society continued to make a significant contribution to private housing. During the year a total of 83 loans were approved involving a total sum of \$1.4 millions; and 142 houses were completed and occupied.

The rents of all properties built and completed before 7th September, 1947 are subject to the Control of Rent Ordinance 1953. The rents of houses are not permitted to be increased beyond the rents prevailing on 1st August, 1939, except by fixed amounts ranging from 5 to 20 per cent according to the class of the house. In certain specific cases some additional increases may be permitted beyond these controlled limits. Disputes arising between landlord and tenant may be referred to a Rent Conciliation Board constituted under the Ordinance. The Board consists of a Chairman with legal qualifications, and a panel of 17 unofficial members. In 1955 the Board dealt with a total of 969 cases. Buildings erected after 7th September, 1947 are not subject to control, and their rents are not restricted in any way.

Teachers

Although the number of new teachers required each year is large, every effort is made to select the best available young men and women by careful consideration of their academic qualifications and school records and by personal interview. Apart from the very small number of graduates who enter the service with the University Diploma in Education nearly all teachers in English schools are trained in the Teachers' Training College. There are two main systems of training, a two-year full time course leading to the Ministry's Certificate in Education, and a three-year part-time course leading to the Normal Training Certificate, the latter being taken by those appointed as teachers-in-training who form the great majority. The courses are provided for teachers in both English and Chinese schools. The aim is that the secondary schools should be staffed by graduates of recognised universities, and the primary schools by teachers who, after a good pass in the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, have obtained the Certificate in Education of the Teachers' Training College.

Training of teachers in Malay and Tamil schools is not as yet provided by the Teachers' Training College. Full time courses for Malay teachers are taken at residential colleges in the Federation of Malaya; part-time courses are available for Malay teachers locally and for Tamil teachers in Johore Bahru.

TEACHERS IN TRAINING, 1955

A. In Singapore

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
On course for Certificate in Education (English)	130	120	250
On course for Certificate in Education (Chinese)	102	54	156
Normal Training Course (English) ...	736	487	1,223
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Post graduate students taking the course for Diploma in Education at the University of Malaya, Academic Year 1954/5	17	8	25
Post graduate students taking the course for Diploma in Education at the University of Malaya, Academic Year 1955/6	11	9	20

B. In the Federation of Malaya

Sultan Idris Training College ...	21	—	21
Malay Women's Training College ...	—	10	10

School Broadcasting

The number of 'listening' schools was 316, including 84 Chinese, 30 Malay and 14 Tamil schools. Sixty-five programmes a week were produced and there were 18 'repeat' programmes for afternoon session schools. Every week in term time there were 11 hours school broadcasting in English, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in Chinese, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in Malay and 3 in Tamil. Broadcasts followed the same pattern as in the previous year. They included a topical civics course on changes in the constitution on the functions of assemblies, and on revenue and expenditure, and also a popular Malayan history course. As investigation showed that reception conditions in schools were not wholly satisfactory, the Ministry of Education provided the facilities for Radio Malaya to build a high quality receiving set for classroom listening. Its quality has been demonstrated, and it is hoped to equip schools with the set when funds are available.

Sport

The schools have carried out a very full programme of sporting activities during the year. Besides the usual school games of rugby and association football, cricket, hockey, badminton and basketball, there have been many athletic and swimming meetings. Some of these brought together in friendly rivalry pupils from different kinds of schools, Chinese and Malay as well as English, and a combined schools swimming team toured the Federation of Malaya at the end of the year.

Art and Music

A strengthening of the staff of the department makes it possible to give more time to cultural activities, both in and out of normal school hours. Some really excellent performances were given during the schools music and drama festival.

FURTHER EDUCATION

University of Malaya

The University of Malaya was established in 1949 as a result of the report on higher education made by a commission headed by Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders. The University is sponsored and financed jointly by the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of Singapore. Financial aid has been in the form of recurrent grants and capital grants. Up to 1954 the recurrent grants were determined annually, the Federation paying 60 per cent and Singapore 40 per cent of the grant. From the University financial year

1954-5, the Governments agreed to allocate grants to the University on a quinquennial basis; the grants for the first five-year period were to increase from \$5½ millions in 1954-5 by \$300,000 annually to \$6.7 millions in 1958-9. In addition, the joint Governments have contributed approximately \$7 millions in capital grants to the University and have promised a further \$5 millions for future development.

The University is located in Singapore in the buildings of the former Raffles College and King Edward VII College of Medicine to which post-war additions have been made. The Court and Council of the University are statutory bodies constituted under the laws of the two territories. The University is organised in three faculties: Arts, Science and Medicine (including Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy), and has, in addition, a new department of Engineering.

DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BY RACE

	Arts		Science		Engineering		Medicine (including Dentistry and Pharm.)		Total		Grand Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Chinese ..	127	76	95	21	39	—	334	47	595	144	739
Malays ..	86	10	16	2	2	—	32	1	136	13	149
Indians ..	38	20	16	3	6	—	63	8	123	31	154
Ceylonese ..	27	11	13	7	2	—	49	8	91	26	117
Eurasians ..	9	5	4	—	1	—	5	2	19	7	26
Others ..	9	8	7	—	—	—	10	1	26	9	35
	296	130	151	33	50	—	493	67	990	230	1,220
	426		184				560				

Of these students 424 (320 men and 104 women) were from Singapore, they were distributed among the various faculties as follows:—

Arts ...	163
Science ...	61
Engineering ...	10
Medicine ...	190

The Chancellor of the University of Malaya since its foundation in 1949 has been His Excellency the Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South-East Asia. The permanent staff comprises the Vice-Chancellor and an academic and administrative staff of all races who at the end of the year numbered 162. There are 28 full departments of study.

- (ii) that equal educational opportunity should be afforded to the children—both boys and girls—of all races;
- (iii) that upon a basis of free primary education there should be developed such secondary, vocational, and higher education as would best meet the needs of the country.

Under the plan, primary education was to be free though not compulsory. The aim was to give a 6-year course for children aged approximately 6–12 years, with English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil as the medium according to the parents' choice.

The scheme for free education throughout the primary course brought into operation with the classes admitted in 1949 had entered its seventh year of operation by 1955 so that free education was provided in all classes of the primary schools. Pupils in all schools benefit under this scheme provided they are of the correct age for their class.

Ten new primary schools a year were to have been built, each to accommodate 500 pupils. But as early as 1950, it was realised that the rate of school building would have to be increased. A supplementary Five-Year Plan was therefore introduced which called for the building of 18 new schools a year on a simpler standard pattern. This total was reached by the Public Works Department in 1950, but in later years high building costs and the scarcity of sites slowed down the programme. Nevertheless, by the end of 1955 52 new primary and 7 new secondary schools had been completed since the end of the year. Besides this, several new schools and large-scale extensions to existing schools had been completed by the mission authorities with financial assistance from the Government. As a result of this building drive, and by using most of the buildings to accommodate two schools in consecutive sessions, thereby doubling the effective accommodation, Singapore schools now give places for 176,849 children in primary and 27,305 in secondary classes. It is estimated that the number of children in the primary age group of 7–12 years was 163,200 in 1955, but this figure will rise to 239,500 by 1959 the increase being nearly 20,000 a year in each of the years 1955, 1956 and 1957, and 23,000 in 1958. To provide the extra school accommodation necessary in these critical years, there is a need for 20 new schools to be built every year and for 600 new teachers a year to be recruited for them. Thanks to the efforts of the Public Works Department, a great deal of building has been done. During the year work on

the numbers of hospital beds and a fairly extensive domiciliary midwifery service. Further there is a highly active and efficient public health organisation.

In the City area, the enforcement of public health measures including the sampling of foods and the provision of infant welfare centres, is undertaken by the Health Department of the City Council. In the rural areas the Health Branch of the Ministry of Health accepts responsibility for providing environmental health services on behalf of the Rural Board. The Ministry of Health in carrying out its responsibilities is providing hospitals and out-patients department services throughout the Colony as rapidly as possible. The development of an island wide school medical and dental service, air and port health quarantine service and maternity and child welfare services in the rural areas is at an advanced stage.

In addition a large number of voluntary bodies with the aid and encouragement of Government are now playing a very important part in the medical care and welfare of the people. Valuable assistance is also being received from the World Health Organisation.

MEDICAL STAFF

There is no acute shortage of doctors in the urban area of Singapore. Within the City general practice is flourishing and any shortage should soon be fully met by graduates of the University of Malaya and such recruits as may be required for an expanding population. The progressive expansion of governmental medical services is demanding a constant inflow of new doctors. The University of Malaya will be turning out graduates at a faster rate but even this may not for the time be sufficient to meet the requirement of a rapidly developing service. It has not yet been found practical to dispense with the services of a number of doctors temporarily employed to meet acute shortages immediately. Difficulty is still being encountered in the staffing of the health services owing to the unpopularity of public health as a specialised career. From June 1953 all graduates of the University of Malaya were required to do one year's housemanship before full registration. A Medical Council established under the Medical Registration Ordinance maintains the register of doctors.

Qualified dental practitioners are now being turned out in adequate numbers. The number of unqualified dentists on the register who were reported to practise during the days of shortage is diminishing but is still a problem. These were, however, required to

the improvement and strengthening of Chinese education in the interests of Chinese culture and orderly progress towards self-government and ultimate independence'. It is expected that the report will be published early in 1956.

While the committee was sitting there was little open unrest, and a threat by senior middle school pupils to boycott the Government examination in protest against an increase in the number of subjects from three to five proved abortive.

Towards the end of the year there was some agitation for secondary education through the medium of Malay. Government is genuinely sympathetic towards any attempt to improve Malay education but there are considerable practical difficulties in the way of secondary education solely through the medium of Malay, of which the most serious is the lack of teachers of Malay race or with sufficient knowledge of Malay to enable them to teach in it. Consideration is being given to a bilingual solution to the problem and arrangements have been made for the forming in January 1956 of bilingual Malay-English classes.

As in 1954, there was a reduction in the number of over-age pupils. It is impossible to give any reliable figures of the average ages at which children enter and leave the different types of school, or at which children of the different races enter or leave school. All that can be said is that the average age of admission to primary schools is approximately 7 but that large numbers of children, especially Chinese, first spend one or two years in kindergarten schools. More than half the pupils in the English primary schools go on to a secondary school; in the Chinese primary schools, about 1 pupil in 6 goes to a secondary school; and in the Malay and Tamil schools the average school life is 5 years and 3 years respectively. What must not be forgotten, however, is that there are children of all races in the English schools, and that figures for the vernacular schools alone may give a misleading picture of the education of children of the various racial communities.

The need to provide secondary education for as many pupils as possible, within the limitations of school accommodation and of teachers to staff the schools, has been recognised. Selection for entry to secondary schools has again been by competitive examination with the application of an age qualification. Of the 4,000 who sat for the examination 2,300 were successful, and of these 350 expressed a wish to continue their education in the secondary technical or secondary commercial schools.

Teachers

Although the number of new teachers required each year is large, every effort is made to select the best available young men and women by careful consideration of their academic qualifications and school records and by personal interview. Apart from the very small number of graduates who enter the service with the University Diploma in Education nearly all teachers in English schools are trained in the Teachers' Training College. There are two main systems of training, a two-year full time course leading to the Ministry's Certificate in Education, and a three-year part-time course leading to the Normal Training Certificate, the latter being taken by those appointed as teachers-in-training who form the great majority. The courses are provided for teachers in both English and Chinese schools. The aim is that the secondary schools should be staffed by graduates of recognised universities, and the primary schools by teachers who, after a good pass in the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, have obtained the Certificate in Education of the Teachers' Training College.

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The number of 'listening' schools was 316, including 84 Chinese, 30 Malay and 14 Tamil schools. Sixty-five programmes a week were produced and there were 18 'repeat' programmes for afternoon session schools. Every week in term time there were 11 hours school broadcasting in English, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in Chinese, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in Malay and 3 in Tamil. Broadcasts followed the same pattern as in the previous year. They included a topical civics course on changes in the constitution on the functions of assemblies, and on revenue and expenditure, and also a popular Malayan history course. As investigation showed that reception conditions in schools were not wholly satisfactory, the Ministry of Education provided the facilities for Radio Malaya to build a high quality receiving set for classroom listening. Its quality has been demonstrated, and it is hoped to equip schools with the set when funds are available.

Sport

The schools have carried out a very full programme of sporting activities during the year. Besides the usual school games of rugby and association football, cricket, hockey, badminton and basketball, there have been many athletic and swimming meetings. Some of these brought together in friendly rivalry pupils from different kinds of schools, Chinese and Malay as well as English, and a combined schools swimming team toured the Federation of Malaya at the end of the year.

Art and Music

A strengthening of the staff of the department makes it possible to give more time to cultural activities, both in and out of normal school hours. Some really excellent performances were given during the schools music and drama festival.

FURTHER EDUCATION

University of Malaya

The University of Malaya was established in 1949 as a result of the report on higher education made by a commission headed by Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders. The University is sponsored and financed jointly by the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of Singapore. Financial aid has been in the form of recurrent grants and capital grants. Up to 1954 the recurrent grants were determined annually, the Federation paying 60 per cent and Singapore 40 per cent of the grant. From the University financial year

the donors there were 1,689 Service personnel. The Ministry is grateful for the help it received from servicemen. Civilian donors are now increasing in numbers.

Developments and expansions of hospital services have continued without break but more slowly than one could wish; priority in development plans has been given to the training of medical and nursing staff without which the provision of new hospital buildings can serve no useful purpose.

General Hospital

At the General Hospital two notable events in the implementation of the Medical Plan were the opening of the new theatre block in April and the "Mistri Wing" of the Children's Department in October.

The theatre block includes two units each comprising a major theatre, twin theatres and a minor theatre, wards for first and second class patients, extensive accommodation for consulting rooms, etc, and teaching facilities for medical students. The work of reconstruction and redecoration of the surgical wards for the two general surgical units was completed.

The "Mistri Wing", named after the late N. R. Mistri, Esq. who donated almost the entire cost of the building, comprises four floors accommodating two pediatric units each of 150 beds.

The building is of modern architectural design and includes accommodation for admission units, wards for children aged six years to ten years, lecture rooms and administrative offices on the ground and first floors, the upper two floors providing ward accommodation for those under six years of age.

Throughout the year a programme of construction of new buildings and reconstruction of existing buildings has been carried out by the Public Works Department. This work will provide additional accommodation for the staff and expansion to certain departments which will afford greater facilities all round.

The Hospital has been faced with ever increasing demands for treatment and the average monthly attendance at the Out-patients and Casualty Department was 40,000 as compared with 36,000 in 1954. The average of monthly admissions was 2,500.

Kandang Kerbau Maternity Hospital

On 10th August, 1955 the official opening ceremony of the new extension at Kandang Kerbau Maternity Hospital was performed by Lady Black, wife of His Excellency the Governor.



Westlake Photo Service

CHILDREN OF ALL RACES ATTEND GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN SINGAPORE AND
RECEIVE A FULL EDUCATION

Top—A scene from the play *Cinderella* which was placed first in the Inter-School (Junior Section) Drama competition

Below—A scene from the play *The Stolen Prince* staged by the students of the Stamford Girls' School

Y. C. Lee Photo





Lee Pan Hon at the age of 6 played on a miniature violin made of coffin wood by his father for an audience of street urchins in Singapore's china-town. His talent was discovered and he has since received formal training and became

The University has grown rapidly since its foundation and the early plans for its expansion have had to be thoroughly revised. Plans are now in hand for the extension of facilities in Singapore and for new developments in Kuala Lumpur. These include major developments for the teaching of the social sciences, additional accommodation for the teaching of science, and residential colleges for students. A new Department of Engineering has been established which already has an enrolment of 50 students. The University Library has some 210,000 volumes; the Chinese section of some 130,000 volumes is one of the largest in the world outside China and Formosa. The storage, cataloguing and microfilming equipment is modern.

Nanyang University

Following the resignation of the Chancellor, Dr. Lin Yu Tang, together with other members of the staff of the Nanyang University during the year, a fresh staff was recruited mainly from places outside Malaya. On the 500-acre campus on Jurong Road building operations continued throughout the year till by the end of December some 40 buildings, including the Library, the Science block and the Arts block were practically completed. Preparatory classes for Arts and Science students were opened in two Chinese schools in June and continued till December with a total enrolment of 350 students.

Singapore Polytechnic

Since the issue of the 1954 Report satisfactory progress has been made towards the establishment of the Polytechnic; a Board of Governors under the chairmanship of Mr. L. Cresson, O.B.E., J.P. was appointed by His Excellency the Governor and held its first meeting on 4th February, 1955. The Board met on frequent occasions throughout the year and has appointed an architect, approved the design of the building, bought a block of flats for the staff, and advertised for senior staff. An offer of the post of principal has been made to a highly qualified and experienced candidate.

Adult Education

The Council for Adult Education is an independent body consisting of representatives of the organisations concerned with Adult Education, and of the University of Malaya. It organises evening classes in all parts of the Island, for the most part in school buildings lent by the Government.

centres distributed all over the rural area including the smaller islands. During the first eleven months of the year 12,185 primary vaccinations and 10,329 diphtheria inoculations were carried out at these clinics. The City Council has five infant welfare clinics, three of which are situated in suitable buildings, but two are housed in shop-house premises leased by the Improvement Trust and are too small for their purpose. These are soon to be replaced by new buildings. An additional clinic is also under construction. Construction work on the Urban Health Centre costing \$2.1 million is progressing.

MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

Singapore continued to be one of the healthiest places in the East. Infant mortality, generally a sensitive index of public health, which had declined from 265 infant deaths in the first year of life per thousand live births in 1920, and 140 in 1940 to 67 in 1953, descended even more steeply to 49.69 in 1955. More important perhaps is the decline in the neo-natal mortality rate (infant deaths in the first four weeks of life per thousand live births) from 26.12 in 1954 to 22.9 in 1955. While allowance must be given to yearly oscillations such improvements as have been noted cannot altogether be due to chance variations. The post-war years have seen a large scale planned expansion of the maternal and child health services, particularly in the rural area which already has a well developed domiciliary midwifery service. Continual health education by the Health Department personnel of the Government and the City Council has created an immense awareness of the benefits of western medicine in the minds of the people and is beginning to change age-old habits and customs. There has been progressive improvement in recent years in the numbers of sanitary homes built both by private enterprise and by the Singapore Improvement Trust. With this development there has also been a clearance of slums, vegetable gardens and pig farms. The latter are always a source of flies and through them of intestinal affections of children. Departments such as the Social Welfare and the Public Works Department and voluntary agencies have been particularly active in meeting relief of the needy and in opening roads and means of access. During the year 1954 also a delivery after-care service at the Kandang Kerbau Maternity Hospital was instituted and was able to follow the cases of many mothers and new-born infants in the urban areas.

There still remains much room for improvement in the infant mortality rate. The problem is more one of housing than of medicine. Many town dwellers live in tenements under extremely crowded and insanitary conditions. Anything approaching western standards of child delivery at home is in their case impossible. The result is that although a domiciliary midwifery service is a practical proposition for the middle classes in better homes and for those in Singapore Improvement Trust houses the great bulk of the working classes must either have their babies in unsatisfactory conditions or they must be admitted to hospital. Of the 42,090 births among urban dwellers in 1955 not less than 22,813 took place in a Government hospital.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

	1947		1953		1954		1955	
	<i>Maternal deaths regd.</i>	<i>Maternal mortality rate</i>	<i>Maternal deaths regd.</i>	<i>Maternal mortality rate</i>	<i>Maternal deaths regd.</i>	<i>Maternal mortality rate</i>	<i>Maternal deaths regd.</i>	<i>Maternal mortality rate</i>
All races ..	125	2.9	68	1.2	88	1.5	52	0.9

The maternal mortality rate is the number of mothers' deaths per 1,000 live births.

INFANT MORTALITY

	1947		1953		1954		1955	
	<i>Infants deaths regd.</i>	<i>Infants mortality rate</i>	<i>Infants deaths regd.</i>	<i>Infants mortality rate</i>	<i>Infants deaths regd.</i>	<i>Infants mortality rate</i>	<i>Infants deaths regd.</i>	<i>Infants mortality rate</i>
Chinese ..	2,671	79.43	2,425	58.22	2,002	46.80	1,731	40.36
Malaysians ..	784	143.25	905	124.38	869	106.71	873	104.61
Indians and Pakistanis ..	236	76.45	249	62.94	257	60.76	196	44.15
Europeans ..	18	57.69	22	25.79	19	21.37	18	17.42
Eurasians ..	28	77.99	24	73.85	12	35.93	12	33.24
Others ..	21	113.51	30	60.12	35	63.06	34	57.72
Total ..	3,758	81.33	3,655	67.04	3,194	56.10	2,864	49.67

The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE

Coupled with the improving maternal and infant mortality rates there has been a fall in the general death rate largely as a result of vigorous public health measures. The death rate of 8.73 compares favourably with that in most western areas.

Until it can be built, the library service from the existing premises is being improved and extended. In September 1954 a qualified librarian was appointed with the particular task of advising on the construction of the new central library, and on the organisation of a system of libraries for the Colony as a whole.

Learned Bodies

The Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, whose headquarters are at Raffles Museum, was founded in 1878. It is the principal society in Malaya devoted to local anthropological, antiquarian and kindred subjects. Since its foundation it has published a journal to which many noted orientalists have contributed. The field of natural history is covered by the Malayan Nature Society. The University has given rise to a number of societies devoted to medicine, and also to mathematical, scientific, historical and archæological societies. Great stress is laid on the importance of original research carried out by members of the University.

X

HEALTH

IN SINGAPORE, as elsewhere, an efficient organisation for the treatment of the sick, the prevention of disease and the promotion of health is regarded as essential both for safeguarding the public and for creating a more satisfying order of society. The administration and extension of this work are the duty of the Medical Department of the Government (now the Ministry of Health) and the Health Department of the City Council. It is the aim of the Government to provide necessary medical care within the reach of all citizens, which in most cases, means free treatment. At the same time the outbreak of disease is being controlled by widespread public health measures.

At the end of the Japanese occupation in 1945, the public health and medical institutions had fallen into decay and the general health of the population had declined seriously. The pre-war position has long been regained and under the Government's Medical Plan considerable improvements have taken place. The last seven years have also witnessed a remarkable freedom from major infectious diseases such as plague, cholera or smallpox. Malaria has been absent except for a few cases arriving from without or occasionally appearing in the outlying islands, as oddities. There has been a steeply diminishing incidence of many respiratory infections and of the more lethal alimentary affections. While it is probably that the stage has not yet been reached where a comprehensive national health insurance scheme could be put into effect and a service guaranteed to everyone entitled to demand it, the feasibility of introducing a National Health Service is under study. While there is still today an acute shortage of beds and highly qualified personnel the Ministry is pressing hard for improvement and has already achieved much—a hospital bed however is never denied in emergency. There is now an efficient out-patient service, a first class blood transfusion service, a substantial increase in

the numbers of hospital beds and a fairly extensive domiciliary midwifery service. Further there is a highly active and efficient public health organisation.

In the City area, the enforcement of public health measures including the sampling of foods and the provision of infant welfare centres, is undertaken by the Health Department of the City Council. In the rural areas the Health Branch of the Ministry of Health accepts responsibility for providing environmental health services on behalf of the Rural Board. The Ministry of Health in carrying out its responsibilities is providing hospitals and out-patients department services throughout the Colony as rapidly as possible. The development of an island wide school medical and dental service, air and port health quarantine service and maternity and child welfare services in the rural areas is at an advanced stage.

In addition a large number of voluntary bodies with the aid and encouragement of Government are now playing a very important part in the medical care and welfare of the people. Valuable assistance is also being received from the World Health Organisation.

MEDICAL STAFF

There is no acute shortage of doctors in the urban area of Singapore. Within the City general practice is flourishing and any shortage should soon be fully met by graduates of the University of Malaya and such recruits as may be required for an expanding population. The progressive expansion of governmental medical services is demanding a constant inflow of new doctors. The University of Malaya will be turning out graduates at a faster rate but even this may not for the time be sufficient to meet the requirement of a rapidly developing service. It has not yet been found practical to dispense with the services of a number of doctors temporarily employed to meet acute shortages immediately. Difficulty is still being encountered in the staffing of the health services owing to the unpopularity of public health as a specialised career. From June 1953 all graduates of the University of Malaya were required to do one year's housemanship before full registration. A Medical Council established under the Medical Registration Ordinance maintains the register of doctors.

Qualified dental practitioners are now being turned out in adequate numbers. The number of unqualified dentists on the register who were reported to practise during the days of shortage is diminishing but is still a problem. These were, however, required to

drink. Frequent analysis of samples of water and sewage is undertaken by the City Analyst for the City Council's undertakings (which extend partly into the rural areas) and by the Department of Chemistry for the remainder of the Colony. These two authorities are responsible for checking samples of foods, alcoholic liquors and drugs in accordance with the elaborate code of regulations governing their sale and use.

The Advisory Council on Nutrition and the Public Health Conferences which have become important permanent features of post-war public health control continued to meet from time to time. Indications are that at the moment the general nutritional state of the population has not deteriorated from the high general level reached over recent years.

RESEARCH

A varied programme of research has been conducted, covering *inter alia* investigations into cases of lead poisoning, studies of congenital heart disease, of treatment for tetanus, children's health, and of mosquito control, and several papers have been published.

XI

WELFARE SERVICES

WELFARE ACTIVITIES and the relief of distress in Singapore are undertaken by the Government and by a number of private agencies. These agencies, some of which were the pioneers of welfare work, are responsible among other things for more than half the institutional accommodation available for the needy as well as for much of the youth welfare work in the Colony. The aim of the Department of Social Welfare is to keep the whole field under review and to provide necessary services in those areas which are not adequately covered by other Government departments or by private agencies. Collaboration between the various departments and voluntary organisations is ensured by the existence of the Singapore Social Welfare Council. The Director of Social Welfare is the Chairman of the Council, and Government departments and voluntary organisations are represented on it. The Department of Social Welfare was set up in 1946. It now has an established place in the Colony administration and is organised to ensure orderly progress in all spheres of welfare work. The Department has certain duties in connection with civil defence and is called upon to provide immediate shelter and relief for the victims of fires, floods and other disasters.

Heavy rain and renewed flooding at Bedok in January, though not so severe as in the previous month, called for renewed work by the Department of Social Welfare in arranging temporary shelter for the homeless, providing hot meals and blankets and in distributing cash relief grants. These services were again required at fires which occurred later in the year, especially in September, when over 700 people were rendered homeless by a fire in Kampong Silat. More than 200 people were given temporary accommodation in the former terminal building of the disused Kallang Airport. On this occasion a special relief fund was raised by public

subscription and valuable assistance was given by voluntary organisations such as the British Red Cross Society, the Blue Cross Association and the Salvation Army.

SOCIAL RESEARCH

The Social Research Section of the Department conducts social surveys, the results and findings of which are made available to those concerned with the framing of future social legislation and procedure, the formulation of social policy, and with town planning.

During 1955 work continued on projects begun in 1954 such as the survey of the tastes of listeners to Radio Malaya's Chinese programmes and the survey of family living conditions in Singapore. With regard to the latter, a report has now been printed and is entitled *Urban Incomes and Housing*. It is to be published by the Government Printer for distribution and sale early in 1956. The Report gives very valuable information on social and economic conditions in Singapore, especially the level of household income received by urban working class families and provides useful data on households by size and community, earnings structure, housing, scale and cost of diet, household budgets and standards of living. Among new projects was the tabulation of data from the files of recipients of Public Assistance: this information was required by the International Labour Organisation expert on Social Security.

A minor survey was undertaken in connection with former opium addicts treated at a local Chinese temple and assistance was given to the staff of the Social Research Unit of the University of Malaya who conducted a survey of social conditions in an overcrowded section of the City. Proposals for a survey of the leisure needs of youth in Singapore are under discussion with the Singapore Youth Council.

COUNSELLING AND ADVICE SERVICE

The Counselling and Advice Service includes a poor man's lawyer service and deals with problems of social and economic needs as well as legal advice. This service is able to give poor persons, who have a legal right but not the means or knowledge to obtain redress, an opportunity to use legal processes as a method of solving their difficulties. The cases dealt with include landlord and tenant relations, wage, gratuity and provident fund claims, compensation

claims, matrimonial disputes, maintenance for both legitimate and illegitimate children, the custody of children, and assistance in out-of-court settlements in these and other cases.

An extension of the poor man's lawyer service to include legal representation in court in certain matters is under consideration.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Although there are no contributory schemes of social insurance applicable to the population at large for sickness, old age, or unemployment there are in Singapore a generous Workmen's Compensation Scheme (see Chapter III), a Central Provident Fund Scheme, free medical treatment and hospital services (see Chapter X), homes for orphans and the aged (both Government and private) and an ever widening scheme of public assistance covering most categories of needy persons. Many pension and provident schemes operate for a limited number of people such as public servants and the employees of the larger commercial and industrial undertakings. Within family units and clans there is still a strong tradition of mutual help. There are few beggars in Singapore.

As the result of an application by Government to the International Labour Office an expert arrived in the Colony in October 1955, to review existing social security services with a view to proposing rationalisation and extension measures.

With the object of making a study of minimum standards of living, unemployment insurance and minimum wages, a committee, known as the Minimum Standards Committee, under the Chairmanship of Sir Sydney Caine, Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya, was formed at the end of the year. In due course the Committee will make recommendations to Government on these matters.

Government Public Assistance Scheme

Payments are administered by the Department of Social Welfare under a scheme which provides for the following classes of persons when found to be in need:—

- (i) the aged (men and women aged not less than 65 and 60 respectively);
- (ii) the sick, including those suffering from advanced tuberculosis;
- (iii) widows and orphans;
- (iv) the permanently disabled;
- (v) the temporarily disabled; and
- (vi) the unemployed.

The immediate effect of this extension has been to increase the bed strength from 240 to 316 beds, made up of 50 for gynæcological cases and the rest for maternity cases. In spite of the increase in the bed strength this hospital is still short of accommodation to meet the demands of the public for admission.

A Domiciliary Delivery Service operated from this hospital was commenced on the 11th September, 1955 and to date 938 cases have been dealt with by this service.

	1-1-55 to 31-12-55	1-1-54 to 31-12-54
Total number of cases admitted ...	29,534	26,188
Total number of admission (maternity)	25,522	22,680
Total number of deliveries ...	22,813	20,301
Total number of admissions (gynæcological) ...	4,012	3,508
Total attendances at the out-patients departments ...	161,568	170,585

Tan Tock Seng Tuberculosis Hospital

The approved plan for this hospital is to provide a modern building of 1,000 beds complete with all services and to retain the present pavilion type wards for the more chronic open cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the construction of the first two six-storey blocks which when completed will add 408 beds to the present bed strength of 550.

Up till 30th November, 1955, 3,337 new cases were added to the register, of these 1,470 were proved cases of active tuberculosis.

Sir Harry Wunderly, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.A.C.P., Director of the Division of Tuberculosis in the Australian Commonwealth of Health, visited Singapore in May for a preliminary assessment of requirements to carry out a Tuberculosis Survey in Singapore. His report is now being considered by the Singapore Government.

Woodbridge Mental Hospital

The Woodbridge Mental Hospital officially has only 1,800 beds but force of circumstances has necessitated it taking up to 1,900 patients.

Intensive treatment of all patients continued during the year and has been sufficiently successful to prevent any significant increase in the total number of in-patients since last year.

Teaching was intensified during the year and included instruction for the Diploma in Public Health, Final M.B., Mental Nursing Certificate (junior and senior) Trainee Nurses, Probationary Attendants and Trainees of the Royal Society of Health.

Trafalgar Leprosy Hospital

During the year there was further expansion of the Trafalgar Home. At the end of 1955 the total number of inmates stood at 897.

The progress in the out-patients division has continued and the total number of non-infectious cases now under surveillance and treatment has now reached 1,289 and the contact clinic has been developed which has nearly 3,000 contacts under observation.

During the year 160 newly discovered positive cases were admitted to the home for treatment. This is a slight increase on 1954 but below the 1953 figure.

Selected cases have been sent to the General Hospital for operation. One hundred and twenty cases have so far been operated. The value of this work has been very great and the results have been most satisfactory with great improvement in mobility and dexterity and reduction of disability and deformity.

Middle Road Hospital (Skins and Venereal Diseases)

This hospital forms the headquarters for the Social Hygiene service; it has 70 beds, an out-patient clinic and Venereal Disease Control Section.

In-patients during the year numbered 1,277 and out-patient attendances averaged 625 per day as compared with 546 in 1954. Total out-patients numbered 25,341 (9,943 females).

Lectures are given to nurses, almoners, nurse midwives and hospital attendants, while medical students attended this clinic where the various techniques in the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are taught.

During the early part of the year two social workers sponsored by the World Health Organisation, one from Indonesia and one from Burma studied the set-up of the epidemiological services.

Middleton Infectious Diseases Hospital

The Middleton Infectious Diseases Hospital is the only institution specifically reserved for infectious disease in the Colony apart from the Quarantine Station at St. John's Island.

The total number of admissions in the hospital during 1955 was 3,312 of which 70 died.

There were no cases of smallpox, cholera or plague.

Out-patient Services and Prisons

During 1955 all general out-patient dispensary services throughout the Colony have been put under the supervision of a super-scale officer—the Medical Officer in charge Out-patient Services. This officer also supervises the work of the Prisons' medical officers. In addition to the general out-patient clinics at three of our hospitals there are three outdoor dispensaries open daily to patients and six clinics held on one or more days a week at different centres in the Island. This out-patient service is fast extending and is in implementation of the policy laid down by the Minister for Health.

Opium Treatment Centre

In November 1954 the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance was amended to allow for the institution of an Opium Treatment Centre at St. John's Island. This centre was opened in February 1955.

The object of the institution which is novel in that while being essentially a curative centre, it is administered by the Commissioner of Prisons, is to provide a place to which selected persons who have been convicted in the courts for opium offences may be sent, where they can receive medical treatment, be built up physically and mentally, and where, under ideal conditions, they are encouraged to learn a trade which maybe of use to them on their discharge, stress being laid on the rehabilitation aspect of treatment. Mention on the rehabilitation work and results is made in greater detail in Chapter XI.

District Hospitals

A site of 15 acres (probably extending to 20 acres) has been made available at the evacuated Kallang Airport for the erection of a multi-storeyed hospital—with provision for 750 beds—and the ancillary service will include an out-patient department. This is expected to be completed within 2½ years.

The programme for capital expenditure includes nine other District Hospitals and a second General Hospital providing for 1,000 beds, a hospital for chronic cases and Recovery Homes.

Maternal and Child Health Service

The number of medical officers in the Maternal and Child Health Service was increased from three to eight during the year and two new main centres were constructed. This service is conducting 48

claims, matrimonial disputes, maintenance for both legitimate and illegitimate children, the custody of children, and assistance in out-of-court settlements in these and other cases.

An extension of the poor man's lawyer service to include legal representation in court in certain matters is under consideration.

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- (iv) the permanently disabled;
- (v) the temporarily disabled; and
- (vi) the unemployed.

hospitals in the whole of Asia. A considerable expansion is planned for this hospital which in addition ran a free out-patient clinic with some 10,000 regular patients in 1955. Its ambulatory and domiciliary staff of almoners and health visitors have continued regular visits to patients. The systematic X-ray examination and tuberculosis testing of school children (and teachers) continues. 99,200 children have been vaccinated with B.C.G. in continuation of a campaign begun by the World Health Organisation in June 1951. An important part of the anti-tuberculosis campaign is a scheme for treatment allowances, the first of its kind in the East. The object of this scheme is to provide financial aid to certain patients to enable them not merely to buy diet and other essentials thereby gaining the best results from treatment but also to provide for the substance of their families and dependants.

Infectious Diseases

Since the epidemic of smallpox which prevailed from May 1946 to March 1947, contributing 152 cases with 41 deaths, and a further five cases in 1948, Singapore has not witnessed any quarantinable infectious disease, viz., smallpox, plague, cholera, typhus, yellow fever or relapsing fever, in spite of the proximity of territories in which many of these dangerous infectious diseases are either endemic or epidemic, and from which arrivals under quarantine observation were, at times, found to be suffering from smallpox. Poliomyelitis, diphtheria, chickpox, measles and whooping-cough, and to a smaller extent typhoid and dysentery, are, however, endemic. Although publicity has been given to the value of diphtheria prophylaxis in infants, the case and death rates still remain too high and the numbers of infants brought to the clinics for inoculation are still far short.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital run jointly by the Government and the City Council admits cases of infectious diseases other than those occurring in Service personnel who have their own infectious diseases hospital. The hospital has fourteen iron lungs and special post-polio treatment facilities.

Epidemics

Singapore has been completely free of any of the major quarantinable diseases, and no other infectious disease has occurred in epidemic form. There is improvement in the incidence of diphtheria and of enteric poliomyelitis. A small outbreak of typhoid fever affecting four families occurred on the island of Pulau Brani.

Quarantine Services

With its unique geographical position large numbers of passengers, ships crews and air crews pass through Singapore from neighbouring infected countries. Its port health services are an essential bastion against disease from outside.

PORT HEALTH SERVICES			1954	1955
Ships arriving from infected or suspected ports	...	...	1,587	1,783
Sea passengers inspected	...	...	98,994	116,275
Aircraft arriving from infected or suspected ports	...	...	1,341	1,315
Air passengers and crews inspected	...	...	39,725	45,976
Passengers quarantined	...	...	16,034	20,537

PUBLIC HEALTH

Routine work includes the inspection of places where food is prepared, premises used for offensive trades, house inspections, inspections on reports of nuisance, inspection of premises on behalf of various Government departments and visits in connection with the prevention of infectious diseases.

Samples of food and drugs are taken regularly and prosecutions instituted where necessary. Following a report from the General Hospital of cases of lead poisoning in persons who had taken Chinese drugs, samples of these drugs were obtained and examined for lead content. Some samples were found to have as much as 14 per cent of lead, the vendors of which were successfully prosecuted. Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Ordinance are analysed by the Department of Chemistry of the Government and by the City Analyst.

The tried and tested measures of mosquito control so long in operation in Singapore were continued and extended during the year. There are now 569 miles of permanent drainage, 220 miles of temporary drainage and oiling, 7,100 yards of fascine draining, 836 acres under naturalistic methods and D.D.T. spraying and pond control on a large scale. Night trapping for adult mosquitoes in areas noted for dangerous breeding was regularly carried out and no known carriers were recorded throughout the year.

Water supply and sanitary services of the Colony are under the control of the City Council and the Rural Board as described in Chapter XIV. In the City area they are up to the standards of western cities and the Singapore piped water supply is safe to

drink. Frequent analysis of samples of water and sewage is undertaken by the City Analyst for the City Council's undertakings (which extend partly into the rural areas) and by the Department of Chemistry for the remainder of the Colony. These two authorities are responsible for checking samples of foods, alcoholic liquors and drugs in accordance with the elaborate code of regulations governing their sale and use.

The Advisory Council on Nutrition and the Public Health Conferences which have become important permanent features of post-war public health control continued to meet from time to time. Indications are that at the moment the general nutritional state of the population has not deteriorated from the high general level reached over recent years.

RESEARCH

A varied programme of research has been conducted, covering *inter alia* investigations into cases of lead poisoning, studies of congenital heart disease, of treatment for tetanus, children's health, and of mosquito control, and several papers have been published.

XI

WELFARE SERVICES

WELFARE ACTIVITIES and the relief of distress in Singapore are undertaken by the Government and by a number of private agencies. These agencies, some of which were the pioneers of welfare work, are responsible among other things for more than half the institutional accommodation available for the needy as well as for much of the youth welfare work in the Colony. The aim of the Department of Social Welfare is to keep the whole field under review and to provide necessary services in those areas which are not adequately covered by other Government departments or by private agencies. Collaboration between the various departments and voluntary organisations is ensured by the existence of the Singapore Social Welfare Council. The Director of Social Welfare is the Chairman of the Council, and Government departments and voluntary organisations are represented on it. The Department of Social Welfare was set up in 1946. It now has an established place in the Colony administration and is organised to ensure orderly progress in all spheres of welfare work. The Department has certain duties in connection with civil defence and is called upon to provide immediate shelter and relief for the victims of fires, floods and other disasters.

Heavy rain and renewed flooding at Bedok in January, though not so severe as in the previous month, called for renewed work by the Department of Social Welfare in arranging temporary shelter for the homeless, providing hot meals and blankets and in distributing cash relief grants. These services were again required at fires which occurred later in the year, especially in September, when over 700 people were rendered homeless by a fire in Kampong Silat. More than 200 people were given temporary accommodation in the former terminal building of the disused Kallang Airport. On this occasion a special relief fund was raised by public

subscription and valuable assistance was given by voluntary organisations such as the British Red Cross Society, the Blue Cross Association and the Salvation Army.

SOCIAL RESEARCH

The Social Research Section of the Department conducts social surveys, the results and findings of which are made available to those concerned with the framing of future social legislation and procedure, the formulation of social policy, and with town planning.

During 1955 work continued on projects begun in 1954 such as the survey of the tastes of listeners to Radio Malaya's Chinese programmes and the survey of family living conditions in Singapore. With regard to the latter, a report has now been printed and is entitled *Urban Incomes and Housing*. It is to be published by the Government Printer for distribution and sale early in 1956. The Report gives very valuable information on social and economic conditions in Singapore, especially the level of household income received by urban working class families and provides useful data on households by size and community, earnings structure, housing, scale and cost of diet, household budgets and standards of living. Among new projects was the tabulation of data from the files of recipients of Public Assistance: this information was required by the International Labour Organisation expert on Social Security.

A minor survey was undertaken in connection with former opium addicts treated at a local Chinese temple and assistance was given to the staff of the Social Research Unit of the University of Malaya who conducted a survey of social conditions in an overcrowded section of the City. Proposals for a survey of the leisure needs of youth in Singapore are under discussion with the Singapore Youth Council.

COUNSELLING AND ADVICE SERVICE

The Counselling and Advice Service includes a poor man's lawyer service and deals with problems of social and economic needs as well as legal advice. This service is able to give poor persons, who have a legal right but not the means or knowledge to obtain redress, an opportunity to use legal processes as a method of solving their difficulties. The cases dealt with include landlord and tenant relations, wage, gratuity and provident fund claims, compensation

claims, matrimonial disputes, maintenance for both legitimate and illegitimate children, the custody of children, and assistance in out-of-court settlements in these and other cases.

An extension of the poor man's lawyer service to include legal representation in court in certain matters is under consideration.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Although there are no contributory schemes of social insurance applicable to the population at large for sickness, old age, or unemployment there are in Singapore a generous Workmen's Compensation Scheme (see Chapter III), a Central Provident Fund Scheme, free medical treatment and hospital services (see Chapter X), homes for orphans and the aged (both Government and private) and an ever widening scheme of public assistance covering most categories of needy persons. Many pension and provident schemes operate for a limited number of people such as public servants and the employees of the larger commercial and industrial undertakings. Within family units and clans there is still a strong tradition of mutual help. There are few beggars in Singapore.

As the result of an application by Government to the International Labour Office an expert arrived in the Colony in October 1955, to review existing social security services with a view to proposing rationalisation and extension measures.

With the object of making a study of minimum standards of living, unemployment insurance and minimum wages, a committee, known as the Minimum Standards Committee, under the Chairmanship of Sir Sydney Caine, Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya, was formed at the end of the year. In due course the Committee will make recommendations to Government on these matters.

Government Public Assistance Scheme

Payments are administered by the Department of Social Welfare under a scheme which provides for the following classes of persons when found to be in need:—

- (i) the aged (men and women aged not less than 65 and 60 respectively);
- (ii) the sick, including those suffering from advanced tuberculosis;
- (iii) widows and orphans;
- (iv) the permanently disabled;
- (v) the temporarily disabled; and
- (vi) the unemployed.

Investigators carry out home visits to enquire into the circumstances of applicants. Those persons who qualify under the scheme are normally given relief according to fixed scales. The scales were greatly increased on 1st January, 1953. In cases where fixed scales are not suitable a variation may be recommended by the Public Assistance Board which is a non-statutory body appointed by the Governor.

The present fixed scales are:—

	<i>Per month</i> \$
(i) if residence in the Colony for one year or more is proved:	
Head of household	15
Wife/husband or other dependant aged 16 years or over	8
Dependant under 16 years	5
(ii) if residence for one year is not proved—such rate as the Public Assistance Board may specially recommend;	
(iii) if the applicant has been unable to work for more than a month due to sickness—an additional sickness allowance at rates shewn in (i) above.	

No maximum is placed on the amount which any family may draw as public assistance benefit alone, since such allowances are arbitrary and are not based on the actual cost of living or minimum wage rates. A maximum of \$90 per month is, however, placed on the combined public assistance benefit and sickness allowances which may be received by a family, with the proviso that in cases of exceptional hardship the Public Assistance Board may recommend this maximum to be exceeded.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

	<i>Average number of families receiving payment</i>	<i>Annual sum disbursed \$</i>
1946 (July—December)	3,570	194,895
1947	2,254	262,418
1948	2,193	244,656
1949	2,109	221,746
1950	2,524	271,618
1951	2,714	385,817
1952	4,162	913,104
1953	6,835	2,423,503
1954	9,943	3,595,311
1955	12,977	4,861,065

Government Tuberculosis Treatment Allowance Scheme

Under this scheme considerably larger payments than the public assistance allowances are made to tuberculosis patients whose chances of recovery are good. Payments are made by the Department of Social Welfare on the recommendation of Government medical authorities and the Royal Singapore Tuberculosis Clinic and are conditional upon the co-operation of the patient in the treatment. The allowances in 1955 were:—

			<i>Per month</i>
			\$ c.
Head of household as (i) out-patient	...	49	50
	(ii) in-patient	...	16	50*
Wife or first adult dependant relative	...	27	50
Each additional dependant aged 16 years and over	...	16	50
Each dependant under the age of 16 years	...	13	20

* \$5 per month if the patient has no dependants. In addition certain allowances and deductions are made to cover rent, school fees, domestic help, private family income and so forth.

T.B. TREATMENT ALLOWANCE

		<i>Families receiving payment</i>	<i>Annual sum disbursed</i>
			\$
1949 (April—December)	...	120	100,468
1950	...	305	228,492
1951	...	478	405,349
1952	...	984	890,887
1953	...	1,253	1,239,990
1954	...	1,461	1,454,396
1955	...	1,693	1,712,196

Silver Jubilee Fund

The Silver Jubilee Fund is a trust established from public subscriptions, and sums of approximately \$120,000 each year are disbursed under the direction of a management committee by the Department of Social Welfare for the relief of distress in Singapore. This money is largely used to supplement allowances paid under the Public Assistance Scheme. Old age, convalescent and confinement allowances are paid in suitable cases and the Fund is also used to meet the cost of educational and funeral expenses of persons in receipt of public assistance allowances or their dependants and for other special purposes.

Malaya War Distress (Singapore) Fund

Applications for assistance from persons and families standing in need by reason of the war in Malaya have been considered by the Trustees and 135 have been approved. Payments were begun in July.

Opium Treatment

A centre for the treatment of male opium addicts administered by the Prisons Department was opened on 14th February, 1955 on a one-year experimental period. This institution provides a place to which selected persons, convicted in the courts for opium offences, may be sent, where they can receive medical treatment, be built up physically and mentally, and where under ideal conditions, they are encouraged to acquire knowledge and skill in a trade which may be of use to them on their discharge, stress being laid on the rehabilitation aspect of treatment.

It was noted that many addicts, imprisoned for opium or other offences, showed a marked improvement in their health as a result of prison routine, diet and treatment for their physical ailments, and it was decided that as an experiment a special institution for the treatment of addicts should be opened. Part of the Quarantine Station on St. John's Island (an island about four miles from Singapore) was selected for the institution, as not only offering a complete change of surroundings and living conditions, but, as traffic to and from the Island is controlled, also offering a reasonable prospect of preventing the smuggling of opium to the inmates.

The necessary legislation was framed under the Dangerous Drugs (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1954, providing *inter alia* for the establishment of an Opium Treatment Centre, the appointment of officers and the setting up of an Advisory Committee which consist of the Superintendent and Medical Officer of the Opium Treatment Centre and a Rehabilitation Officer. The Advisory Committee is an important link in the scheme which provides that a person convicted of an opium offence is remanded to a special ward in the Prison designated as an "Opium Treatment Centre". There while on remand, his physical condition is checked, including X-ray and other examinations as may be necessary, while a Rehabilitation Officer investigates his background and family circumstances. The reports of the Medical and Rehabilitation Officers are laid before the Advisory Committee who interview the addict.

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Each additional dependant aged 16 years and over	...	16	50
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If the Committee believe that the addict may benefit from treatment in the Centre, they recommend his admission to the Magistrate, who may order the addict's detention in the Centre for an undetermined period, not exceeding twelve months. Included in the factors considered by the Advisory Committee are the following:—age, general physical condition, length of addiction and environment.

During 1955, of 976 male addicts remanded for investigation, 279 were admitted to the Centre. Generally these investigations take two to three weeks. On admission to the Centre the addict is interviewed by the Superintendent and the Medical Officer and admitted to the sick bay where he is detained for a minimum period of one week and given extra diet including milk and eggs. At the end of this period he is again seen by the Medical Officer, and if found fit for light duty, he is given a chance of employment in several different trades including carpentry, tailoring, rattan work, cooking, gardening and tin-smithing. It has been found that the inmates in the Centre are happy to be employed and there have been few breaches of discipline. It is interesting to note that in only one case has there been failure to gain in weight during the period of detention. The average weight gained by inmates by the time of their discharge was 14 pounds.

Though the addict is sentenced, as a rule, to be detained for a period of 12 months, it has been found that most of the inmates are fit to be released after a period of 6 to 7 months; and it has been noted that at the end of this period most of them realise that the addiction has gone. The Rehabilitation Officer ensures that they have employment waiting for them on release. All firms have been most sympathetic in taking employees back on the recommendation of the Rehabilitation Officers. There has been no instance of a firm refusing to re-employ former addicts on release. So far there have been 151 releases. The Rehabilitation Officers visit them regularly. There have been no cases of relapse, but the period is as yet too short for any conclusions to be drawn and the majority are, of course, still on licence from the Centre.

Five male volunteers have been admitted to the Centre, but this number is insignificant against a background of an estimated figure of 15,000 addicts in the Colony. Forty-two female addicts were remanded by the Courts for investigation, of these seven were recommended by the Advisory Committee for treatment in the Opium Treatment Section of the Female Prison and have since been released on licence.

Retirement Benefits

A Central Provident Fund established by law in 1953 came into operation on 1st July, 1955. This scheme which aims to provide retirement benefits to most classes of employees is more fully described in Chapter III. Seafarers have for many years been given benefits amounting to pensions from the Mercantile Marine Fund established by law and financed by a levy on shipowners.

HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS

More than half the homes and institutions in Singapore are run by voluntary agencies. Both these and the homes which are administered by the Department of Social Welfare cover a wide range of institutional welfare work.

Homes Operated by the Social Welfare Department

Nantina Home is an old people's home with accommodation for about 50. Blind adults receive instruction in braille and handicrafts.

Bushy Park Home is an old people's home with accommodation for about 200. Victims of fires, floods and other disasters and destitutes awaiting repatriation are also accommodated in this home.

Gimson School for Boys is an approved school for boys committed by the Juvenile Court. It has 130 boys under training in various trades.

Perak House is an orphanage accommodating 80 boys from 6 to 14 years of age most of whom attend Government schools.

The Girls' Home, Mount Emily, is for girls under 18 years of age who have been found prostituting or are in moral danger. The home accommodates about 40 girls who receive educational and domestic training while in the home.

The Girls' Homecraft Centre, York Hill, has a nursery section for about 50 children up to the age of 6 years and a homecraft section for about 150 girls up to 19 years of age. The home is mostly for destitute, ill-treated and refractory children.

New Market Children's Home is for mentally deficient boys up to 12 years of age and girls up to 16 years of age and has accommodation for about 30 children.

Two *Boys' Hostels* are for working boys on low wages, boys discharged from approved schools and other homes and for probationers. They accommodate about 60 boys.

Two *Day Nurseries* together accommodate about 150 children every working day. They are for the children of working mothers.

Homes Operated by Private Agencies

The Salvation Army operates orphanages and approved homes for boys and girls and a residential creche for young children who have been abandoned by or have lost their parents.

The Red Cross Home for Crippled Children accommodates 40 crippled children between the ages of 6 and 16. The British Red Cross Society has also organised deaf classes for 40 children.

The Singapore Association for the Blind has completed the new school for the blind; staff are being recruited and seven blind children have been selected for entry to the primary school in January 1956. During the early stages the Blind Welfare Officer, appointed in July 1955, will be in charge of the school.

Roman Catholic Organisations have been most active in the provision of institutional accommodation for young orphans, for girls in need of care and protection and for a number of handicapped children. The St. Joseph's Trade School (Boys' Town) caters for the same general type of boys as Gimson School for Boys but the channel for entering is not normally through the Juvenile Court. The Roman Catholic homes for girls give an excellent training to many hundreds of girls who would otherwise drift onto the streets. The Little Sisters of the Poor run a home for more than 200 old people.

The Ramakrishna Mission Home caters largely for Indian orphans with accommodation for 72 boys.

The Overseas Chinese Creche is primarily for abandoned or destitute babies of all races with accommodation for 50 children.

The Children's Aid Society, founded in 1902, maintains a home for 30 orphaned Eurasian children.

Seafarers' Homes are described in Chapter XV.

YOUTH WELFARE

The Singapore Youth Council has about 35,000 members in its 34 affiliated youth organisations, of which the Federation of Boys' Clubs and the Singapore Boy Scouts' Association are the largest. By the end of 1955 the number of Boys', Girls' and Youth Clubs had risen to 31, assisted by an increasing number of volunteers

who devoted their leisure time to club work, and by grants-in-aid from the Social Welfare Department.

Three training courses for club leaders and youth leaders were organised in 1955, including one course under the direction of an expert from Swansea University. The second youth holiday camp was officially opened in August after it had been prepared for occupation by the labour of young men and women attending a work camp organised by the Malayan Christian Council.

The probation service is described in Chapter XIII.

Children's Centres and Community Development

There are about 2,500 poor children attending the sixteen Children's Social Centres. The new centre at Sims Avenue was opened by the Minister for Labour and Welfare in July and work is about to start on another centre at Seah Im Road. An average of twenty-five children a day are sent to attend the dental clinic in the Sims Avenue Centre. Although the problem of malnutrition is much reduced since the centres were started as child feeding centres in 1946, a daily snack is still supplied. Instruction in the centres, given by voluntary workers and paid staff of the Department of Social Welfare, includes elementary English and arithmetic, cleanliness and hygiene, singing, drawing, handicrafts, needlework, games and physical training.

The Community Centres continue to expand both in numbers and in their range of activities. Joo Chiat is the first in which the Community Centre Advisory Committee has been replaced by a Community Association, which has full control over the organisation of activities in the Centre after the hours when it is used as a Children's Social Centre. Both the one Community Association and the three Community Centre Advisory Committees have been energetic in promoting social, recreational, educational and welfare activities. Centres have been used for exhibitions in connection with Health Week and the Centre built by the Rural Board at Bukit Panjang was the scene of a successful agri-horticultural exhibition, the first of its kind to be held for many years. Three centres have branches of Raffles Library and five have branch labour exchanges.

CARE AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The care and protection of women and children are statutory functions performed by the Department of Social Welfare under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance and the Women and

Girls Protection Ordinance. These responsibilities are undertaken by two sections of the Department.

The section of the Department concerned with the care and protection of children and young persons is responsible for investigations and prosecutions in respect of ill-treated and neglected children and for their subsequent care. Homes for children are dealt with above. During 1955 the section dealt with 75 cases of neglect or ill-treatment. In addition enquiries were made as a preliminary to 174 legal adoptions and 611 children were registered as "transferred". These are children who, though not legally adopted, live apart from their near relatives in circumstances normally regarded by Chinese customary usage as adoptive. In the two years 1954 and 1955, 1,316 such children were recorded in the books of the Department.

The object of the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance is the suppression of brothels and the protection of women and girls. To this end raids, in conjunction with the Police, are conducted by a section of the Social Welfare Department against suspected brothels, procurers, souteneurs and others whose interests interlock in the organisation of prostitution. Girls who in the course of raids are found in brothels or are thought to be in moral danger may be taken to a place of safety or be put on bond as the case may be. During the year under review 93 raids were carried out on places suspected of being used for immoral purposes and 10 girls were taken to a home. The circumstances under which women and girls enter the Colony are carefully examined as a safeguard against their later use for immoral purposes.

XII

LEGISLATION

FORTY-ONE ORDINANCES were enacted during 1955. Of these one was the Appropriation Ordinance, four were consolidating or re-enacting Ordinances, nineteen were amending Ordinances, eight were amending or new Ordinances enacted following the expiry of the proclamation of the state of emergency and the consequent lapsing of the Emergency Regulations, one was a repealing Ordinance and eight were new Ordinances.

The following were the more important:—

The Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955

The Central Provident Fund (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1955

Two Ordinances were passed during the year to amend the Central Provident Fund Ordinance, 1953. The first of these brought non-established civilian employees of the Services within the scope of the Central Provident Fund, and provided for the appointment and powers of Inspectors for the purpose of carrying out the Ordinance.

The second amending Ordinance provided that employees receiving wages of \$200 a month or less would not be required to contribute to the Fund. It also provided for the making of reciprocal arrangements with governments of other territories and made certain amendments affecting private provident funds and other matters.

The Public Authorities Protection (Repeal) Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance implemented the recommendation of a Select Committee, appointed to examine the law relating to the protection of Public Authorities, that the Public Authorities Protection Ordinance should be repealed. With the repeal of that Ordinance public authorities ceased to be in a privileged position in litigation.

The Customs Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance, which has not yet been brought into force, consolidated with amendments the law relating to the collection of duties on tobacco, petroleum, and intoxicating liquor, which are at present collected under three separate Ordinances, the provisions of which vary considerably.

The Ordinance gave effect to amendments recommended by the Liquors Licensing Law Committee, and provided that with the exception of the Chairman no public servant or servant of the City Council should be appointed or elected to the Board who, in his official capacity, had any dealings or was in any way concerned with the sale or purchase of intoxicating liquors. The Board also would be the sole source of issue of all licences controlling the sale of intoxicating liquor. A further change, which would save the issue of several thousand permits a month, was the provision for the issue of wholesale licences of which there were none at present, each delivery to a retailer being covered by a separate permit.

The Ordinance also incorporated the provisions of the Public Revenue Protection Ordinance under which the Governor is enabled, on a Bill which alters any rates of import, export or excise duty being introduced into the Legislative Assembly, to order that duty at the new proposed rates should be levied forthwith. Under the new Ordinance the Governor in Council from time to time may by order prescribe duties to be levied. If any such order is not confirmed by the Legislative Assembly at the expiration of ten days from being laid on the table of the Assembly or such extended period as the Legislative Assembly may direct, it shall cease to have effect, and any extra duty paid thereunder shall be repaid.

The Criminal Procedure Code, 1955

Prior to the enactment of this Ordinance, criminal procedure in the Colony was governed by the Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 21 of the Revised Edition of the Laws of the Straits Settlements) which was published in 1936. Though there were several minor amendments from time to time there was no comprehensive revision of the Code. As a result of the constitutional changes which had taken place it became desirable to bring the Code up to date, and the Criminal Procedure Code, 1955, was passed accordingly to repeal the older Code and re-enact it with the necessary amendments.

Among the major changes made was the power given to the High Court to impose sentences of corrective training and preventive detention in lieu of imprisonment. This followed the provisions introduced into the United Kingdom in 1948. A further matter in which the law of the Colony was brought into line with the United Kingdom was the provision that sentence of death might not be pronounced on or recorded against a person who was under the age of eighteen years at the time when the offence was committed.

One change which was a convenience both to Courts and accused persons was the provision that persons accused of certain offences, punishable normally by fine, might plead guilty by letter if they so desired.

The Courts Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance amended and consolidated the law relating to the constitution and powers of the Civil and Criminal Courts of the Colony. Though it substantially reproduced the provisions of the former Ordinance a number of new and important changes were introduced, while at the same time obsolete provisions required for the Colony of the Straits Settlements were omitted.

The Ordinance contained new and important provisions regarding the qualifications of Judges of the Supreme Court, and altered entirely the previous qualifications required of District Judges. It also dealt more fully with the jurisdiction and duties of Registrars and other officers of the Supreme Court.

Other changes were in the extension of the civil jurisdiction of a District Court, and the change of nomenclature of Police Court and Police Magistrate to Magistrate's Court and Magistrate respectively.

The Medicine (Advertisement and Sales) Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance, assented to in September, 1955 was not to come into force for at least six months from the date of its passing in order that contracts already entered into by importers of medicine and others might be fulfilled without offending against its provisions.

The Ordinance prohibited the publication of advertisements relating to the use of articles mentioned therein as medicine for the treatment of certain diseases and conditions, other than those advertisements published by public authorities, public hospitals or other authorised persons. It also prohibited advertisements relating to abortion.

The Ordinance further provided that no medicine should be sold by retail other than on a prescription made up for a particular person, or should be supplied as a sample without there being attached thereto a description in English of the substance of the medicine or the ingredients or components thereof.

The Land Acquisition (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1955

The purpose of this Ordinance, which was intended to prepare the way for the publication of the Master Plan provided for by the Singapore Improvement Ordinance, was to stabilise for five years the value of land required for public needs. The market value of land on the 22nd of April, 1955, was to be taken as the basis on which compensation for the compulsory acquisition of the land was calculated, together with other matters such as an increase or decrease in value of other land held, consequent upon the acquisition.

The City Council Elections (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance 1955

In view of further constitutional changes still under consideration, this Ordinance further postponed the City Council elections required to be held in December 1955, and provided that Councillors then due to retire should continue to hold office until July 1956.

The Preservation of Public Security Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance made provision, for a period of three years, for the taking of special powers to safeguard public security. A state of emergency was declared by a proclamation which was made on 22nd July, 1948, and extended from time to time until it expired on 21st October, 1955. This proclamation was made under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1948, under the provisions of which regulations had been made providing amongst other things for arrest and detention, for curfew, for the disposal of property, for procedure in criminal cases and for the entry and search of premises.

On the expiry of the state of emergency these regulations ceased to have effect. It was however, considered that the forces of subversion would not cease their activity and that it would be necessary to take special powers provided in the Ordinance.

Under the Ordinance persons might be detained for a period not exceeding two years when the Governor in Council was satisfied that such detention was necessary for the security of Malaya, the

maintenance of public order, or the maintenance of certain specified essential services. An order for detention might be suspended, and there was provision for appeal against, and review of, any such detention.

Amongst other provisions were those dealing with powers of search, detention for questioning use of lethal weapons to effect arrest, and imposition of a curfew.

The Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1955

This was another Ordinance enacted following the expiration of the proclamation of a state of emergency declared in 1948. Since that time regulations made under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1948, had provided for the maintenance of public order, the control of supplies by sea to the Federation, the maintenance of essential services and other matters. It was considered that the need for such measures would not cease with the expiration of the proclamation of the state of emergency, and this Ordinance accordingly took their place.

One part of the Ordinance dealt with offences involving the use of explosives, consorting with persons guilty of offences relating to arms and explosives, possession of supplies and making and possession of subversive documents.

Another part made it an offence to go on strike, or lock out workers, in certain essential services without giving fourteen days notice, or in certain other circumstances particularly where conciliation proceedings under the Industrial Courts Ordinance were pending.

Powers were given under the Ordinance in respect of several other matters, i.e. dispersal of assemblies when public peace was threatened, entry and search, stopping of vehicles and vessels, search of persons, and disposal of subversive documents.

The Registration of Persons Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance made provision in a permanent form for the registration of the population and the issue of identity cards. These cards were originally introduced in 1948 under the Emergency Regulations, now lapsed, and had been accepted as a means of quick and easy identification over a wide field of Government and commercial activity. They were also essential for the compilation of the Electoral Roll and for any scheme of social or unemployment insurance which might be introduced. The cards were of particular use to the illiterate.

The Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance established the privileges of the Colony's Legislative Assembly, and gave it certain powers and its members certain privileges. In this it followed closely the provisions applying to the Legislative Houses of Nigeria and the Legislative Council of Kenya.

The Ordinance dealt, amongst other matters, with freedom of speech in the Assembly, the summoning of witnesses before Committees thereof, the conduct of strangers in the Assembly Chamber and the conduct of members of the Assembly in relation to contempt of the Assembly, pecuniary interest in matters under discussion, and the acceptance of bribes.

The Labour Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance which consolidated and amended the law relating to labour was based on the previous Labour Ordinance which had been adapted to modern conditions. The former Ordinance was designed mainly to meet the needs of the Straits Settlements when rapid development of the tin and rubber industries demanded large labour forces which had to be recruited from India and China. Changes in conditions in the Colony however had been so marked that a great deal of the Ordinance became unsuited to present day requirements.

The new Ordinance catered for workmen established now in an urban and industrial setting and though it was similar to the Federation of Malaya Employment Ordinance, 1953, there remained inevitable differences due mainly to the fact that, by contrast with the Federation, Singapore was primarily an industrial centre.

In the Ordinance close attention had been paid to International Labour Conventions and Recommendations while particular consideration was given to the employment of children and young persons.

New classes of workman were also brought within the Ordinance, in particular the employees of certain departments of the Colony Government and of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom operating in the Colony.

The Bankruptcy (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance was designed to make certain amendments to the Bankruptcy Ordinance necessitated by the fall in the value of money since the war which had rendered some of its provisions

obsolete. The provisions chiefly affected were those which allowed bankruptcy proceedings where the debt amounted to the relatively small sum of \$100 and which restricted the amount of a workman's wages to which preferential treatment could be given to \$250 provided they had been earned within four months of the Receiving Order.

The Ordinance had accordingly provided an increase from \$100 to \$500 in the minimum amount of the debt which might give rise to bankruptcy proceedings. It had also provided that priority in the distribution of a bankrupt's estate among his creditors should be given to income tax up to a maximum of one year's assessment and the wages or salary of any clerk or workman up to a maximum of \$1,000 as against the former figure of \$250. A further change which had been made was that priority might be given to a claim for wages or salary in respect of services rendered during the five months next before the date of the Receiving Order or the date of the termination of the service, if the latter occurred within twelve months of and preceded the date of the Receiving Order. Under the existing law, a claim for wages was given priority only in respect of services rendered during the four months next before the date of the Receiving Order and this might cause hardship where the making of a Receiving Order was delayed.

The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955

This Ordinance which was complementary to the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955 above had increased the amount of an employee's wages to which priority over other debts of the company would be given from \$250 to \$1,000 and also gave priority in a winding up to income tax up to a minimum of one year's assessment.

XIII

LAW AND ORDER

CCOURTS OF LAW are established under the constitutional instruments of the Colony as amplified in local ordinances. The judges, magistrates and court officials collectively form the Judicial Department under the Chief Justice.

CIVIL LITIGATION

There were two Civil District Courts in 1955. Each court is presided over by a District Judge who is empowered to try cases of a civil nature in which the amount in dispute does not exceed \$1,000. Cases involving larger sums are heard in the High Court which has unlimited jurisdiction and is presided over by the Chief Justice or by a Puisne Judge. There were in 1955 a Chief Justice and four Puisne Judges. The High Court also hears appeals from Civil District Courts. Appeals from the High Court are heard by the Court of Appeal composed of three judges. A further appeal in certain cases lies to the Privy Council. These Courts are constituted under the Courts Ordinance which also provides for Rules Committees to prescribe rules for the detailed conduct of business. The Court of Appeal and the High Court in both its civil and criminal jurisdiction are collectively described as the Supreme Court.

Most civil actions are begun by Writs of Summons. The issue of Writs of Summons and other processes forms a large part of the work of the courts of civil jurisdiction and their registries.

As must be expected in an expanding community there was an increase in litigation in the Civil District Court; 5,142 actions were begun as against 4,530 in 1954. However, fewer suits were filed in the High Court owing to the increase in jurisdiction of the Civil District Court.

The largest number of cases consisted of claims for money lent. The number of cases between landlords and tenants showed an increase.

Divorce petitions are on the increase. In 1953 43 petitions were filed; in 1954 there were 53; and in 1955 there were 67.

CIVIL BUSINESS OF COURTS, 1955

	<i>Civil District Courts</i>		<i>High Court</i>	
	1954	1955	1954	1955
Summonses to commence action:				
For money lent	2,905	3,519	984	564
For goods sold	441	468	763	384
For wages	250	144	36	10
For Income Tax	340	279	167	88
For other money matters	320	388	556	630
For possession of landed property	274	344	81	151
In other cases requiring Originating Summonses	—	—	198	150
Applications and Summonses in Chambers	1,823	1,948	1,551	1,375
Judgment Debtor Summonses	738	1,065	103	127
Processes in execution of judgment	2,248	4,349	474	312
Warrants of Commitment and Arrest	210	312	10	9
Petitions for Probate and Letters of Administration	43	58	611	652
Bankruptcy notices and petitions	—	—	681	705
Divorce petitions	—	—	53	67
Adoption petitions	106	100	62	58
Admiralty suits	—	—	4	3
Crown suits	—	—	4	4
Writs of Habeas Corpus	—	—	3	4
Other processes	591	—	364	274

Those cases which are opposed by any party generally lead to actions in court. It is common in the District Courts for litigants to conduct their own cases through interpreters provided by the court.

CIVIL ACTIONS DISPOSED OF IN COURTS, 1955

	<i>Civil District Courts</i>	<i>High Court</i>		
		<i>Appeals from District and other lower Courts</i>	<i>Original actions</i>	<i>Court of Appeal</i>
Suits:				
For money lent	2,439	2	370	1
For goods sold	361	—	240	3
For wages	140	2	12	2
For other money matters	463	10	320	3
For possession of landed property	314	12	60	8
Divorce	—	—	39	—
Other actions (including Income Tax suits)	—	—	58	17
Totals	3,717	26	1,099	34

BANKRUPTCY AND COMPANY LIQUIDATION

The administrative work resulting from the bankruptcy jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is dealt with by the Official Assignee under the provisions of the Bankruptcy Ordinance. The same officer, in his capacity as Official Receiver, is concerned with the insolvency of companies under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance, 1940.

In the case of individual bankruptcies the Official Assignee, who is a public officer and an officer of the Court, alone can be the trustee in bankruptcy, there being no provision in the Colony for a private trustee. The United Kingdom practice as regards company insolvency, however, is followed almost exactly and private liquidators as well as the Official Receiver may be appointed in the winding-up of a company.

BANKRUPTCY				
		1953	1954	1955
Receiving Orders made:				
in respect of wage-earners	...	94	108	189
in respect of traders	...	52	97	84
		\$	\$	\$
Liabilities of bankrupts (approximately)		3,400,000	5,400,000	3,669,497
Estimated value of assets	...	158,000	714,000	420,094

The figures for 1955 show an increase in numbers of orders made particularly as regards wage-earners but a decrease in the amount of the liabilities of debtors and in assets taken into receivership. (The two latter are the important figures for purposes of comparison of the volume of insolvency.) The increase in numbers of wage-earner orders is due to increased use of the procedure provided for in the amendment to the Bankruptcy Ordinance of 1948 of making receiving orders against debtors in place of orders for payment of judgment debts in the cases where section 105B of the Ordinance applies. In other respects there is no point of particular interest in the year's working to which reference need be drawn.

No statutory discharges were granted under the Bankruptcy (Statutory Discharge) Ordinance, 1948. The total pre-war bankruptcies which have been dealt with under this Ordinance is now 2,291.

Three orders were made for the winding-up of companies in 1955. In one of these, private liquidators administered the affairs of the company—in the other the Official Receiver was liquidator.

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS

A Public Trustee, who is the same official as the Official Assignee, is appointed to administer estates of small value and other estates which may be placed in his hands by the Supreme Court in accordance with the Public Trustee Ordinance. In addition, as Official Assignee, he may administer estates under the Probate and Administration Ordinance in such cases, as when no application has been made for probate or letters of administration. At the end of 1955 the Public Trustee was administering 294 estates in which the liquid assets amounted to \$2,098,717 while as Official Assignee he was responsible for a further 216 small estates valued at \$99,402. Immovable properties forming part of the assets of the estates which were being administered by the Public Trustee were estimated to be worth \$900,000 approximately.

There is a Common Fund which, following the practice adopted in New Zealand, represents the combined investment of estates administered by the Public Trustee and amounted to \$1,518,955 at the end of 1955. The Common Fund is managed by a board of public officers in the manner of an investment trust restricted to trustee securities. It is guaranteed out of public funds and, on realisation of their holdings, estates receive an amount representing their original investment so that they are not affected by fluctuations in investment values. A dividend is paid, which in 1955 was 3 per cent.

ENEMY PROPERTY AND OWNERLESS PROPERTY

In 1939 a Custodian of Enemy Property was appointed to administer enemy owned estates sequestrated as a result of legislation governing trading with the enemy. This office is held by the Public Trustee. Since the war the enemy property administered by the Custodian, which included the property of persons whose country had been overrun by Germany and Japan, had nearly all been distributed in the manner provided by treaties and other agreements with the countries concerned.

Of a total of \$23 millions of ex-Japanese assets some \$21 millions had been transferred to the Malayan War Damage Fund by the end of 1954. No further transfer to the War Damage Fund was made in 1955.

A sum of \$3,742,386 representing German enemy assets was held at the end of 1955 for distribution. In 1955 \$106,643 by way of claims was paid out under the provisions for winding-up enemy

businesses in the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, 1939 or for distribution to creditors upon Germany or German nationals in the Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance, 1952. Further payments of claims remain to be paid.

After the liberation of Singapore a considerable quantity of non-enemy property was taken into custody. Much of this property was ownerless in the sense that no person was able to identify it as his or her property. Wherever possible property which could be identified was returned to the owner when ownership was established. Property which could not be identified or in respect of which no claims were made was eventually sold. Sales of this ownerless property realised over \$11 millions and this money has been paid into the War Damage Fund.

CRIMINAL COURTS, SECURITY ACTION AND CRIME

COURTS

There were altogether 13 Criminal District and Magistrates' Courts constituted under the Courts Ordinance at the end of 1955, and one Juvenile Court constituted under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance. Magistrates' Courts are presided over by magistrates with powers which in general extend to the award of 6 months' imprisonment and \$1,000 fine. District Courts are presided over by District Judges who may impose sentences up to 3 years and \$3,000 fine. There are exceptions to the above general rules. For administrative convenience one District Court and two Magistrates' Courts specialised in road traffic offences, and one Magistrate's Court specialised in offences concerning unauthorised building, hawking and other breaches of the Municipal Ordinance. A special procedure is laid down for the Juvenile Court which tries offenders below the age of 16 and may send them to approved schools, approved homes and places of safety but not to prison. The Juvenile Court is housed separately from the other Criminal Courts.

A probation service for both adults and juveniles is administered by the Social Welfare Department. The service is staffed by a Principal Probation Officer and 12 Probation Officers, of whom two are engaged wholly in prison welfare work. Probation Officers enquire into the character, the family environment, and other circumstances of offenders referred to them by the courts. If after studying the Probation Officer's report the court considers that there

is a good prospect of rehabilitation, it may make an order requiring an offender to be put on probation. This, in effect, means the conditional suspension of punishment while the offender is released under the supervision of a Probation Officer and given individual guidance and assistance for a period varying from one to three years.

Two Case Committees, one for adults and the other for juveniles, meet regularly once a month to receive reports on the progress of probationers and to give advice regarding problem cases. A Probation Committee sits once a year to review past work and to advise on policy matters. Records show that whereas in the past a large percentage of probation cases were for trivial offences, during the last two years over 90 per cent of new cases on probation were in respect of offences of a more serious nature such as theft, housebreaking, and robbery. At the end of 1955 there were 171 adults and 132 juveniles on probation as compared with 156 and 124 respectively in 1954. A total of 110 adult and 105 juvenile cases were closed during 1955, and of these, 12 adults and 22 juveniles had either committed further offences or had otherwise failed to respond; the percentage of failures being 11 per cent for adults and 21 per cent for juveniles. (In 1954 it was 22 and 24 per cent respectively.)

Graver offences are tried in the High Court at monthly assizes after preliminary inquiry in a Magistrate's Court. At the assizes a Judge of the High Court sitting with a jury of seven has unlimited jurisdiction. The High Court has power on appeal to alter the findings, sentences and other orders of the District and Magistrate's Courts. An appeal lies from the High Court to the Court of Criminal Appeal consisting of three or more judges, and in certain cases, an appeal may be made to the Privy Council.

The conduct of the courts in criminal cases is governed by the Criminal Procedure Code which also divides crimes into two categories, seizable and non-seizable. Non-seizable crimes are the less serious ones for which the offender may not ordinarily be arrested without a warrant.

There was a slight decrease in the volume of work at the assizes in 1955. There was also a decrease in the number of adult persons tried for crimes and offences in the Criminal District and Magistrates' Courts. In 1955, 77,404 adults were tried as against 90,625 adults in 1954. There was also a decrease in the number of children and young persons dealt with—801 in 1955 as compared with 902 in 1954.

business in the Territory with the Treasury Officers, H. P. for the Distribution to various parts Germany or German states in the Distribution of German Treasury Property Ordinance, 1920. Further payments of claims remain to be paid.

After the formation of Singapore, a considerable number of immovable property was taken into custody. Most of this property was situated in the areas that are presently not able to identify as his or her property. Without possible property which could be identified was returned to the owner after ownership was established. Property which could not be identified or in respect of which no claims were made was eventually sold. Most of this unclaimed property realized over \$11 million and this money has been paid into the War Damage Fund.

CRIMINAL COURTS SECURITY ACTION AND CRIME

0025

There were altogether 13 Criminal District and Magistrates Courts constituted under the Courts Ordinance at the end of 1955, and one Juvenile Court constituted under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance. Magistrates' Courts are presided over by magistrates with powers which in general extend to the award of 6 months' imprisonment and \$1,000 fine. District Courts are presided over by District Judges who may impose sentences up to 7 years and \$1,000 fine. There are exceptions to the above general rules. For administrative convenience one District Court and two Magistrates' Courts specialised in road traffic offences, and one Magistrates' Court specialised in offences concerning unauthorised building, banking and other breaches of the Municipal Ordinance. A special procedure is laid down for the Juvenile Court which tries children below the age of 16 and may send them to approved schools, approved homes and places of safety but not to prison. The Juvenile Court is housed separately from the other Criminal

rehabilitation, it may make an order of discharge on probation. This, in effect, means suspension of punishment while the offender is under the supervision of a Probation Officer and given assistance for a period varying from one

month for adults and the other for juveniles, to receive reports on the progress and to receive advice regarding problem cases. A Probation Officer is appointed once a year to review past work and

Records show that whereas in the past probation cases were for trivial offences, over 90 per cent of new cases on probation are for offences of a more serious nature such as larceny and robbery. At the end of 1955 there were 1,110 juveniles on probation as compared with 1,050 in 1954. A total of 110 adult and 105 juveniles were committed during 1955, and of these, 12 adults and 10 juveniles committed further offences or had failed to appear; the percentage of failures being 11 per cent for adults and 22 per cent for juveniles. (In 1954 it was 22 per cent for adults and 22 per cent for juveniles.)

Cases are tried in the High Court at monthly assizes or in a Magistrate's Court. At the assizes the District Court sitting with a jury of seven has unlimited jurisdiction. The High Court has power on appeal to alter the sentence and other orders of the District and Magistrate's Courts. Appeal lies from the High Court to the Court of Appeal consisting of three or more judges, and in certain cases a further appeal may be made to the Privy Council.

The jurisdiction of the courts in criminal cases is governed by the Criminal Code which also divides crimes into two categories: bailable and non-bailable. Non-bailable crimes are the less serious and the offender may ordinarily be arrested

at any time. The Criminal Code also provides for the arrest of adult persons at the assizes or in a Magistrate's Court. In 1955, 90,625 persons were arrested against 90,625 in 1954. The number of children arrested in 1955 was 902 compared with 902 in 1954.

CORONER'S COURT

There were two Coroners' Courts in 1955. Under the Criminal Procedure Code a report must be made to the Coroner in cases where a death appears to have occurred in a sudden and unnatural or unknown manner. In certain cases the Coroner is then required to hold an inquest with jurors in open court to ascertain the cause of death. In other cases an inquiry without jurors is held. There were 40 inquests in 1955 as compared with 28 in 1954 and 850 inquiries in 1955 as compared with 862 in 1954.

CORONER'S VERDICTS

			1954	1955
Murder	...	...	14	13
Culpable homicide not amounting to murder			—	2
Causing death by a rash or negligent act (motor vehicles)	...	...	18	12
Open verdicts	...	...	39	55
Death by misadventure	...	...	287	271
Suicide	...	...	113	126
Natural causes	...	...	539	572
Other causes	...	...	57	47
Pending	...	...	114	121
Total			1,181	1,219

The Coroner may require the Police to initiate further investigations if he finds that a death has occurred as a result of a criminal act. He also has certain powers of arrest.

FREE LEGAL AID

In his address to the Legislative Assembly at its inaugural meeting on the 22nd April, 1955, His Excellency the Governor stated that immediate arrangements were being made for the introduction of a Free Legal Aid Service in Singapore, including representation in courts, both civil and criminal.

Subsequently the then Registrar of the Supreme Court was sent to Australia to study the system of free legal aid in New South Wales and to report, making recommendations, including an assessment of the annual cost for the introduction of a similar service in Singapore.

The Report was submitted towards the end of the year.

PERSONS DEALT WITH IN THE CRIMINAL DISTRICT AND MAGISTRATES' COURTS AND JUVENILE COURT DURING 1955

CRIME

159

OFFENCES	CONVICTED									
	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted	Nolle prosequi	Committed for trial	Deaths		Imprisonment		Whipping	
					Adults*	Juv.†	Adults	Juv.†	Adults	Juv.
<i>Against the person:</i>										
Murder and Manslaughter	54	20	1	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other ..	2,931	1,315	69	75	1,472	40	395	—	408	15
<i>Against Property:</i>										
Robbery and Extortion	643	192	11	66	374	—	91	—	53	—
House breaking	133	36	4	1	92	4	65	—	—	23
Other ..	941	241	25	4	671	56	244	—	107	14
Against Traffic Ordinance ..	15,157	1,413	66	—	13,678	5	6	—	13,571	69
Against Municipal and Customs Ordinances ..	38,681	4,023	385	—	34,273	—	—	—	34,102	169
<i>Other Offences:</i>										
Seizable ..	13,867	662	12	—	13,193	1	935	—	11,886	174
Non-seizable ..	5,798	455	36	—	5,307	1	61	—	5,209	22
Totals ..	78,205	8,357	609	179	69,060	107	1,797	—	65,336	463
										1,357

* Sentences not commuted.

† Juveniles, i.e. below the age of 16 years, are not sentenced to imprisonment but to detention in homes or approved schools.

SECURITY ACTION

In June 1948 the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1948 was enacted as a countermeasure to a number of outrages instigated by the Malayan Communist Party. This Ordinance empowered the Governor, after an occasion of Emergency had been proclaimed, to make regulations to combat Communist efforts to overthrow the Government when the ordinary criminal law was inadequate. An occasion of Emergency was declared on the 22nd July, 1948 and the proclamation declaring it remained in force until the 21st October, 1955.

The Emergency Regulations made under the Ordinance lapsed with the expiry of the Proclamation declaring an occasion of Emergency. Certain provisions of these Regulations have, however, been embodied in permanent or temporary legislation, the two main items of temporary legislation being the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance, 1955 and the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1955, both of which are in force for a period of three years beginning on the 21st October, 1955.

The main effort of the Communists in 1955 was directed towards subversive as opposed to violent activity. Nevertheless, they have been responsible for the murder of a Chinese High School student, the attempted murder of a Police officer, who was mistaken for a labour contractor in a firm on strike, and the throwing of a hand-grenade into a parked and unoccupied Police vehicle.

Police counter-action resulted in the seizure of 6 firearms, 154 hand-grenades and a quantity of ammunition illegally held by the Malayan Communist Party. Two underground printing presses, one of which was operated by some Chinese middle school students, were seized together with quantities of printing materials and Party documents.

Police pressure against important Malayan Communist Party personalities was maintained throughout the year and altogether 31 convictions involving 27 persons for offences connected with subversive activities were obtained, while 10 other cases involving 13 persons were awaiting trial. A total of 70 persons (61 under the Emergency Regulations, 1948, and 9 under the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance, 1955) were detained on orders made by the Chief Secretary. In addition, 5 other persons were detained on Federation Orders of Detention and handed over to the Federation of Malaya authorities.

Among those detained during the year were persons suspected to have been in the past responsible for a number of public outrages, including the murders of two Police officers and two civilians, the attempted murder of a civilian and two incendiary attacks.

At the end of the year, Orders of Detention were in force in respect of 47 persons. Of these 18 were serving prison sentences, 9 were awaiting trial and 4 were awaiting repatriation to China.

Subversive activity has been aimed chiefly at labour and students and their associated organisations.

Although the Malayan Communist Party have changed their tactics, the ultimate aim of the Party is still the overthrow of the lawfully constituted Government of the Colony and the establishment in its place of a Communist State.

The control of movement of vessels in the Johore Straits has been maintained to deny food and supplies to the terrorists in the Federation of Malaya. Searchlights operated by the Singapore Police continued to enforce a strict curfew by night. The operation of these controls again necessitated the use of Marine Police launches and outboard motor boats far in excess of the normal requirements for policing the coast of Singapore.

Special constables continued to guard important Government and commercial installations against Communist sabotage.

CRIME

There was a sharp rise in the number of seizable offences, the total figure of 12,994 being higher than for any year since 1946. Reported cases of extortion increased from 199 to 233; robberies of all kinds decreased slightly from 303 to 281, armed robberies from 141 to 123; housebreakings increased from 950 to 1,053 and thefts from 3,648 to 4,351.

Secret Societies

Much of the crime in the Colony can be attributed to criminal gangs which are the descendants of Chinese secret societies although they are no longer exclusively Chinese. They practise extortion on hawkers, trishaw riders and others who often avoid complaining to the Police from fear of reprisals.

The steady rise in secret society activity which has been apparent during the past five years continued.

Narcotics

Opium is still the most notorious illicit drug within the Colony, and throughout the year the Customs Department, the Police Force, and the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau have been jointly engaged in suppressing the traffic and the evils associated with it. Responsibilities lie with the Customs Department for preventing the importation of narcotics from other countries, the Police Force for the suppression of opium smoking and peddling within the Colony and the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau for discovering and prosecuting cases of bribery which result from the trade. Determined measures against the traffic and traffickers, including the deportation from the Colony of several principals, continued during 1955.

The large profits to be gained from the smuggling of opium into Singapore continued to attract unscrupulous speculators. They did not, however, have matters all their own way and at least one syndicate sustained heavy losses when Customs officers intercepted their landing agents. It is worthy of note that the persons who finance each large shipment of opium never handle it. Carriage and distribution are undertaken by an entirely separate organisation paid by the principals, through a third person, at a rate varying, according to the hazard, between \$30 and \$60 for every pound landed. It is therefore difficult to secure evidence against the real criminals who are careful to keep well in the background. As a result of action taken by the Customs Department, the Police Force and Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau in 1954, which led to seven drug traffickers being deported from the Colony, opium smuggling syndicates in 1955 were composed mainly of speculators operating on a small scale. Only one important trafficker was deported. 4,695 lb. of raw and prepared opium was seized during the year, almost a 50 per cent increase over 1954.

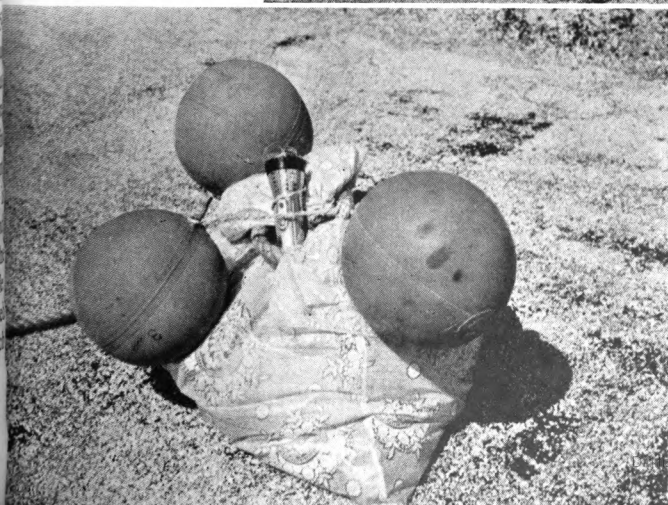
On 8th February, 1955 an amending Ordinance to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance came into force setting up an Opium Treatment Centre on St. John's Island, 4 miles south-west of Singapore. It has undoubtedly had a deterrent effect on opium smokers who can now be committed by Order of Court to terms of treatment extending from 3 months to 1 year. The average opium addict is reluctant to leave his work and home for such long periods and has consequently become more cautious and is constantly on the move to new premises where facilities for smoking are available. It is probable that this harrying of the addict may have caused some fall in consumption and in the price of opium of which



PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEIZURE BY SINGAPORE CUSTOMS OF APPARATUS USED FOR DUMPING OPIUM FROM A FOREIGN SHIP WHILE LEAVING SINGAPORE

Left—General view of the opium apparatus

Right—Opium inside plastic sack with three inflated football bladders, a two-cell torch and a rope of 10 feet in length tied to a life jacket



Left—Close-up view of the plastic sack containing the opium, together with the inflated balloons and the torch which was lighted so that it could be easily seen through the plastic sack in the night time



Left—Civil Defence exercises at Kolam Ayer

Below—The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Lennox-Boyd inspecting a parade of women police

Public Relations



there did not appear to be a shortage at the close of the year. A significant number of addicts sought cures from private medical practitioners.

The Central Narcotics Intelligence Bureau, which has been established within the organisation of the Customs Department, continued to expand. Information was freely exchanged with numerous suppression agencies in many other countries throughout the world. Six officers of the Burmese Customs and Excise visited Singapore under the Colombo Plan to study local procedure for a period of six weeks. An officer of the National Bureau of Investigation, Manila, spent one month with the Customs Department studying Singapore Customs opium traffic suppression methods. Officers of the Ceylon Police and Customs Department visited the Colony in connection with investigations which are still current.

Although considerable success was achieved against traffickers in opium in 1955, it remains impossible to gauge the true measure of such success until countries where the opium poppy is cultivated can exercise stricter control over the production and distribution of each year's harvest.

PREVENTION OF CRIME

SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

Organisation

For Police purposes, the Island of Singapore is divided geographically into four Police Areas, each under the command of a Superintendent of Police. Each area has two Police Divisions. The Marine Police, Radio Division and Traffic Police constitute specialised divisions, as do the Reserve Unit and the Gurkha Contingent. In addition to these, there is a Police Training School and a small detachment on Christmas Island.

The Radio Division is the communications branch of the Force and is equipped with an up-to-date fleet of radio cars controlled from a central headquarters with radio transmitters at Police Headquarters. It is responsible for maintaining a 24-hour coverage of the Island and for maintaining a teleprinter network and for the 999 Emergency Calls. The development of this Division during the past few years has proved to be of great value and the communications provided can be compared favourably with those anywhere in the world. The Marine Police and Traffic Police are described in Chapter XV.

The Criminal Investigation Department has overall responsibility for intelligence and investigations. Area and Divisional officers are responsible to the Assistant Commissioner, C.I.D. for all matter concerning criminal intelligence and investigation within their commands. Its Secret Societies Branch deals with different language group of secret society members and other branches deal with the investigation of commercial crime, gambling offences, pawnshops, narcotics, and other vice. The Criminal Records Office, which incorporates the photographic and technical sections and the fingerprint bureau, is part of the Criminal Investigation Department.

A modern and well equipped forensic laboratory operated by the Department of Chemistry is available for the examination of exhibits connected with criminal cases. Nearly 5,000 criminal exhibits were examined by this Department in 1955, of which 2,000 were in connection with opium smoking cases.

Establishment

The Police Force has always been a popular career for Malays in the Uniform Branch and for Chinese in the Detective Branches. In the past few years an attempt has been made to improve recruitment of Chinese to the Uniform Branch.

STRENGTH OF THE REGULAR FORCE, 1955

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Gazetted Officers</i>	<i>Inspectors</i>	<i>Other Ranks</i>		<i>Total</i>
			<i>Uniform Branch</i>	<i>C.I.D.</i>	
European	69	—	—	—	69
Eurasian	5	51	42	18	116
Chinese	10	145	140	337	632
Ceylonese	3	15	2	3	23
Indian	3	47	101	48	199
Pakistani	1	11	108	11	131
Malay	2	26	2,344	70	2,442
Gurkha	—	3	322	—	325
Indonesian	—	1	2	9	12
Arabian	—	—	—	3	3
Siamese	—	—	—	1	1
Filippino	—	—	2	1	3
Jew	—	—	—	1	1
Vietnamese	—	—	—	1	1
Total	93	299	3,063	503	3,958

The total authorised strength of the Force was 4,422.

The minimum standard of education required for new recruits is the Government Standard VII school examination or its equivalent. During the year 113 recruits of the required or even higher standard were enrolled. Of these, 48 were Malays, 27 Chinese, 31 Indians, and 7 Eurasians. The proportion of Chinese continues to be lower than required in a Colony with a predominantly Chinese population.

Training was seriously interrupted during May as a result of the riots and during October when the Training School staff and trainees took over lorry escort duties during the omnibus strike. The standard of training, however, remains high. Twenty-five lance corporals and constables passed the Corporals' Promotion Qualifying Examination and 27 corporals passed the Sergeants' Promotion Qualifying Examination and were posted for advance training. In addition, 25 non-English speaking corporals were promoted sergeant and posted to a special Promotion Course. Ten members of the rank and file were selected for Commissioner's Cadetships. One Deputy Superintendent attended the Senior Course and 8 Inspectors attended the Junior Course at the Police College, Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Seven Inspectors attended the special Criminal Investigation Course and 2 Inspectors the Non-Gazetted Officers' Course at Hendon Police College. One Deputy Superintendent of Police proceeded to the United Kingdom on a Fellowship Study Course.

During the year the Mount Vernon Barracks, which will house the whole of the Gurkha Contingent and the Reserve Unit, were almost completed. At the end of the year 3,180 men were accommodated in barracks or married quarters.

The Special Constabulary

The Special Constabulary is divided into a paid Active Unit and a Reserve Unit consisting of part-time unpaid volunteers known as the Volunteer Special Constabulary. At the end of the year the strength of the Active Unit was 1,366 while the Volunteers numbered 1,064.

The volunteers of the Special Constabulary worked consistently well throughout the year. After an initial training course they are attached to regular police units for part-time duties and provide a valuable adjunct to the Force. In the discharge of their duties on the nights of the 12th and 13th May, one volunteer was killed and three others injured.

STRENGTH OF THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

			<i>Active Unit</i>	<i>Reserve Unit (Volunteers)</i>
European	...	...	—	18
Eurasian	...	...	25	34
Chinese	...	...	73	446
Malay	...	..	1,201	428
Indian	...	...	46	136
Pakistani	...	...	18	—
Others	...	...	3	2
Total	...		<u>1,366</u>	<u>1,064</u>

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

Singapore has enjoyed free port status since the early 1819. Customs duties are levied on only three commodities: petroleum, intoxicating liquors and tobacco, and then only when they are released from bond for domestic consumption. The success of revenue collection is in part due to the protection afforded by the Customs Preventive Branch. The Preventive Branch is concerned not only with the protection of revenue but with the suppression of the smuggling of opium, gold, arms and other contraband.

Action against the smuggling of narcotics has already been mentioned. Steady pressure was also maintained in 1955 against smugglers and illicit distillers who attempted to evade the duties leviable upon tobacco and liquors. Tobacco smuggling showed a decrease over previous years, there being little demand for anything but cigarettes. Considerably less liquor was smuggled into the Colony on board ships trading with Indo-China, due to the unsettled conditions prevailing there throughout the year. Increases in the duty upon brandy and whisky on 9th November had not caused any increase in smuggling from adjacent Indonesian islands up to the end of the year. Close checking by Revenue Officers of Harbour Division of liquor and tobacco carried on board ships as sea stores did much to discourage petty smuggling by crew members and longshoremen. Illicit distillers were constantly harried by revenue officers.

A record quantity of gold bullion was seized during the year when attempts were made to smuggle gold bars from Hong Kong by sea and air. Excess currency was intercepted by revenue officers on duty at the Airport and Singapore Harbour Board area.

The Customs Department also assisted in the enforcement of non-fiscal controls on imports and exports and of veterinary, agricultural and postal restrictions.

SEIZURES OF CONTRABAND

	1954	1955
Opium, raw and prepared (in pounds) ...	3,211	4,695
Tobacco (including leaf and manufactured) (in pounds) ...	12,549	8,951
Intoxicating liquors (in gallons) ...	2,286	1,838
Fermented rice mash (in gallons) ...	57,059	59,953
Unlicensed stills ...	234	241
Coconut palm toddy (in gallons) ...	41	5
Gold (in pounds and ounces) ...	345 lb. 11 oz.	456
Indian hemp (in pounds) ...	803½	217
Vehicles used in smuggling:		
Motor cars ...	9	12
Lorries ...	2	—
Bicycles ...	43	58
Boats ...	8	4
Outboard motors ...	1	4
Forfeitures: proceeds of sale credited to revenue ...	...	\$276,668.62

Currency forfeited under Finance Regulations:—

		\$	c.
Indian Rupees ...	408		
Indonesian Rupiahs ...	1,455		
Malayan ...	5,996		
U.S.A. ...	201		
£ (Sterling) ...	6		
Total Malayan equivalent ...		7,625	69
		284,294	31

The equipment of the Preventive Branch includes vehicles suited to the terrain in which they operate and a fleet of launches. All the launches are equipped with radio-telephone and one of the land vehicles has been similarly equipped to provide direct intercommunication for amphibious operations. Two of the largest Customs launches capable of deep sea patrols are also equipped with radar which enables them to detect any light local craft moving off the coasts under cover of darkness.

All the convictions for offences against the dangerous drugs laws and those for revenue offences were obtained as a result of the vigilance of the Customs Preventive and Special Investigations Branches.

OTHER CRIME PREVENTION AGENCIES

The Singapore Harbour Board Police Force is described in Chapter XV. The City Council and many Government departments maintain inspectorates to enforce the law relating to special subjects such as labour and hours of work, sanitation, the construction and safety of buildings, ships and vehicles, the protection of children and so forth.

PRISON ADMINISTRATION

The Prisons Department, Singapore, consists of the short sentence Local Prison, Remand Prison, Female Prison and Vagrants House of Detention at Pearl's Hill, the long term sentence Prison at Changi, the Open Camp Prison adjacent to Changi Prison and the Discharge Camp at Woodlands. These establishments provide accommodation for 2,317 persons under normal conditions. Also administered by the Prisons Department is the Opium Treatment Centre on St. John's Island providing accommodation for 200 patients.

The staff of the prisons under the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and 2 Superintendents consists of the Industrial Manager, 6 Chief Officers, 61 Principal Officers, 10 Principal Sub-Officers, 371 Warders in addition to instructors, clerks and others, and the female staff comprising the Matron, Assistant Matron and 8 Wardresses.

A total of 5,997 persons was received in the prisons in 1955:—

Condemned to death	...	...	2
Detained during Her Majesty's Pleasure	...	...	7
Short Sentence	...	...	2,628
Long Sentence	...	...	205
Safe Custody	...	...	2,851
Vagrants	...	...	165
Banished	...	...	78
Detainees	...	...	61

The daily average population of the prisons was 1,242.2.

	<i>Local Prison</i>	<i>Changi Prison</i>	<i>Changi Camp</i>
Daily average of male prisoners	609.3	342	52
Daily average of female prisoners	37.3	—	—
Daily average of young prisoners	66.2	17	—
Daily average of vagrants	67.4	15	36
Highest number of prisoners held on any one day	891	409	110

Fifteen persons received sentences of 3 years' corrective training under the Criminal Justice (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1954.

The average daily population of the Opium Treatment Centre was 88. Highest number on any one day was 180 patients.

With the installation of new laundry machinery, both prisons were able to undertake the laundry of the Government hospitals and 180,000 articles on the average are being laundered for hospital each month. Prison industries which include carpentry, tailoring, metal work, book-binding, printing, farming and other occupations continued to make good progress. The farm again showed good results within increased production of eggs and milk. A large number of pigs were sold at market prices to the abattoir.

New cell and other locks costing \$80,000 were installed in the Local Prison. Improvements, including the installation of fluorescent lighting in workshops were made to the lighting systems of both prisons. 'D' Cell Block of the Local Prison after conversion was taken into use as a Remand Prison in April. It consists of 229 cells. The construction was started of 40 quarters for warders and 6 flats for officers at Pearl's Hill and of 18 quarters for warders and 6 flats for officers at Changi.

Two Prison Welfare Officers, after a course of training in the Social Welfare Department, University of Malaya and in the Prisons commenced work in October, one at each prison. The full time employment of these officers enabled the work of the Singapore After-Care Association for ex-prisoners to be enlarged. There was an increase during the year in the number of voluntary visitors to the prisoners and an enlargement of the scope of their activities which include instruction in English, painting, sewing and other domestic subjects, as well as visits to individual prisoners in their cells.

Health and discipline in the prisons remained at a high level.

XIV

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

THE SUPPLY of water, electricity and gas is the responsibility of the City Council which also provides a fire fighting service and a City cleansing service. The building and maintenance of roads, bridges and the sewerage system is the responsibility of the City Engineer within City limits whilst the construction and maintenance of buildings belonging to the City Council is carried out by the City Architect. Roadworks in the rural areas are undertaken by the Public Works Department of the Colony of Singapore. This department is in addition responsible for the building and maintenance of all government constructional works wherever situated.

WATER SUPPLIES

An installation for the supply of water in Singapore was set up by the Government in 1857 and taken over by the Municipal Council (now known as the City Council) in 1878. The present Water Department of the City Council is run as a non-profit-making trading concern, contributing about 10 per cent of its revenue towards capital expenditure. It has an authorised permanent establishment of 300 on the staff and a labour force of 1,500, supplemented by temporary staff of 80 and a labour force of 400 on extension works. The output of water in 1955 averaged 50 million gallons a day and the income approximately \$16,000,000; capital expenditure up to the end of 1955 was in the region of \$95,000,000. The growth of Singapore has been reflected in the rapid expansion of the water supply system—income having doubled in five years and consumption having increased by 55 per cent.

Singapore derives its water supply from sources on the Island and in South Johore. Three impounding reservoirs in a protected catchment area of approximately 12 square miles on the Island yield about 17 million gallons a day. On the mainland, a catchment area, leased from the Government of Johore, serves four impounding reservoirs and a treatment works providing 18 million

gallons a day, delivered through 30 miles of pipeline into the Singapore system. In addition a river intake works and treatment plant has been constructed on the Tebrau River in Johore which has been in use for the past three years and is now capable of supplying 25 million gallons a day of treated water through some 30 miles of supply-trunk-mains, laid as part of the same scheme.

Work is now proceeding in the initial stages on the construction of a dam in the Peirce catchment area to increase the reservoir capacity from 1,000 to 4,000 million gallons, the reconstruction of the Woodleigh Waterworks from 10 to 60 million gallons a day, and the laying of 48-inch diameter mains between Peirce Reservoir and Woodleigh. Orders have also been placed and preparations are being made for the installation of the necessary high and low lift pumping plant and other works for the conversion of the Tebrau Works from 25 million gallons a day treated water capacity, to 85 million gallons a day maximum (50 million gallons a day average) raw water capacity. This water will be pumped into the new Peirce Reservoir and treated at the converted Woodleigh Waterworks.

Work on the new Murnane covered Service Reservoir was well advanced by the end of the year—one section of the reservoir (17 million gallons capacity) being practically completed, the other section of 40 million gallons capacity being completed with exception of the construction of the reinforced concrete barrel-arched roofing. This covered service reservoir of over 13 acres in area is understood to be the largest of its kind in the world.

Work is also proceeding in the Bedok Valley where 10 wells for pumping water from an underground aquifer have been sunk, and arrangements have been made to pass this water, plus a supply to be obtained from a flood alleviation reservoir, through a treatment plant to be installed for supplying the growing demand of the Changi area with up to 5 million gallons a day.

Works has also been started on the raising of the capacity of the Bukit Timah Waterworks from 7 to 21 million gallons a day.

On the distribution side, the total length of mains in use at the end of the year was 702 miles (39 miles having been added during the year), a large proportion being in the rural area. The total number of services increased by 6,419 to 63,269—all consumers being metered.

The water supply is Island wide in character and a satisfactory supply of water is maintained 24 hours a day in all except one or two areas now receiving attention. The water is soft in character,

of good taste, clear colour and of the highest degree of purity, ensured by a total of 26,000 bacteriological and analytical tests at all stages of treatment and points in the distribution system, taken during the year.

Equipment was purchased for fluoridating the water at Bukit Timah Waterworks as an initial installation, and once this is functioning satisfactorily, further units will be ordered to fluoridate all the water consumed.

Water charges during the year remained unchanged as follows:—

					\$ c.
Clause 1—Shipping Supplies	...	...	...	...	2 75 per thousand gallons
.. 2—Domestic Supplies inside City	...	...	...	...	0 55 ..
.. 3—Domestic Supplies outside City	...	...	...	...	0 85 ..
.. 4—Processed for Sale, etc.	...	...	...	...	2 00 ..
.. 5—All other Supplies	...	...	...	...	1 30 ..

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

The distribution of electricity by the local authority began in 1906 with purchase in bulk from the newly formed Tramway Company. In 1926 St. James Power Station was built and after additions in 1941 and 1948 this station had reached an installed capacity of 37,000 kilowatts.

To meet the ever increasing demands of a growing population the new Power Station at Pasir Panjang was planned and after designs had been made and contracts placed, work began in 1950. By December 1952, in what is believed to have been record time, the first 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator and boiler at the new Power Station were commissioned. In May 1953 the second 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator was brought into operation. Restrictions on consumption which had become necessary in the immediately post-war years were then removed. December 1954 saw the commissioning of the third 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator, and in 1955 the completion of a fourth similar machine brought the total installed capacity of the Power Station to 100,000 kilowatts. The new power station is designed for an ultimate capacity of 150,000 kilowatts which is estimated to be enough to cover the demand until 1961–2. During 1955 the highest demand on the system was 74,000 kilowatts.

The Electricity Department of the City Council supplies consumers not only in the City but also in the rural areas. Its charges are designed to cover costs of production and no call is made on

the city rate-payer. The present tariff is, for most domestic lighting purposes, 17½ cents per unit of one kilowatt hour and for domestic cooking and heating is 6 cents per unit. In those remote areas which have not been reached by the City Council electricity supplies there are a number of private generators. This number, however, is decreasing as the Council supply reaches out to these villages.

Distribution is over a 6,600 and a 22,000 volt network to 315 substations of which 36 were commissioned in 1955. Cables laid during the year totalled nearly 79 miles, and 665 underground and 3,204 overhead services were connected. The supply to consumers is at 230 volts A.C. A total of 68,417 consumers existed at the end of the year and on their premises were 112,814 meters.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES, 1955

(a unit is one kilowatt hour)

	Units Sold	Revenue \$ c.
Lighting and Fans	62,218,016	10,448,270 14
Domestic power other than above	88,266,915	5,336,949 08
Industrial power	163,822,175	7,278,845 35
Public street lighting in City area (paid by City Council)	5,751,954	679,730 61
Public street lighting in rural area (paid by Rural Board)	635,768	117,857 81
Traffic Signals (paid by Colony Government)	258,595	19,414 72
Total	320,953,423	23,881,067 71

The continued assurance of unrestricted freedom in the use of electrical energy has again been reflected in an encouraging demand from consumers for electrical appliances which may be hired from the City Electricity Department. The following represents the total on hire at the end of 1955—the preceding year's totals being shown in brackets:—

Ceiling Fans	39,009 (27,831)
Water Heaters	5,914 (3,722)
Cookers	14,195 (8,195)
Motors	424 (412)

Revenue from the hire of the above during 1955 was \$771,084.25.

Since the war there have been two 5-year street lighting programmes. 1955 was the fourth year of the second programme. By the end of the year the total lamps installed was 7,572 of which 1,273 were connected in 1955. The total extent of street lighting is now 185.11 miles.

GAS SUPPLIES

The supply of gas was in the hands of the Singapore Gas Company from 1862 to 1901, when the local authority acquired the undertaking by purchase. Between 1928 and 1932 a new coal gas manufacturing plant with six beds of horizontal retorts was erected and a new water gas plant was installed. These were in a state of disrepair at the end of the Japanese occupation and have been gradually rehabilitated since. An extension of four beds of retorts was added to the existing plant in 1951 and the original six beds were re-built within main arches and pier walls in 1953. The City Gas Department on its site at Kallang at present has ten beds of horizontal retorts and three water gas plants with a total nominal capacity of approximately 2,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day. There is also a gasholder station at Maxwell Road to serve the western part of the City and a governor station at Tiong Bahru.

During 1955 piling and preliminary work was completed at Kallang Gas Works for the erection of a new dry purification plant with a rated capacity of 3,000,000 cubic feet per day and it is anticipated that this new plant will be in operation by the end of 1956.

Site investigation and preparatory work for the foundations for the new automatic carburetted water gas plant were also dealt with during 1955. This new plant with a rated capacity of 1,250,000 cubic feet per day of water gas is also scheduled to be in production by the end of 1956.

The principal by-products in the manufacture of coal gas are coke and tar. A considerable amount of the coke produced is consumed in the gas works in furnaces and in the production of water gas.

29,372 tons of Indian Gas coal were consumed in the manufacture of gas during 1955. This coal was delivered at the Gas Works' Coal Wharf on the Rochore River.

Production and sales of gas have increased greatly during the past few years. Gas production during 1955 amounted to 601,090,000 cubic feet while private consumption accounted for 534,797,000 cubic feet in 1955 compared to 161,825,400 cubic feet in 1940.

Distribution of gas from the plant to consumers' premises is made over some 251 miles of mains, of which over 7 miles were laid in 1955. Public street lighting by gas, which formed a large part of the pre-war load, has in accordance with the Council's

policy, been gradually replaced by electric street lighting during 1954 and 1955 and by 31st December, 1955 the changeover had been completed and all gas street lighting eliminated.

In 1940 street lighting accounted for 48.6 per cent of the gas consumed and by 1955 this figure had shrunk to 2.1 per cent.

The Gas Department hires out appliances to consumers and allows the installation of privately purchased appliances by registered gas contractors. On 31st December the total number of hired gas appliances in use was:—

Gas Cookers	...	...	8,716
Gas Water Heaters	...	...	3,340
Others	...	...	1,896

Revenue from the hire of the above in 1955 was \$353,300. In addition the Department sold coke, tar and other residual products for a total of \$318,071.35.

As in the case of charges for water and electricity the charges for gas are designed to meet the overall costs of the gas undertaking, without assistance from the Consolidated Rate Fund.

FIRE FIGHTING

The Singapore Fire Brigade is now responsible for fire fighting throughout the whole Island. In the rural areas, fire services, including fire hydrants and the supply of water to them, are provided by the City Council under a financial agreement with the Rural Board. The Singapore Fire Brigade administers the Auxiliary Fire Service on behalf of Government and the service has a fine dépôt in Serangoon Road. A fire station to cover the eastern sector of the Island was built at Geylang in 1929. In 1954 a new fire station was opened in Alexandra Road to provide cover for the rapidly growing western end of the city including the new town at Queens-town. In addition to providing quarters for 3 senior officers and 72 married subordinate staff, the station accommodates the Brigade workshops, stores, laundry, tailors and bootmakers. During the year, the Rural Board commenced work on a three-bay fire-cum-ambulance station at Bukit Timah and this station was nearing completion at the end of the year. It is expected that during 1956 a start will be made on a new fire station to protect the northern side of the city including the Toa Payoh development.

The Brigade is equipped with the latest appliances and has its own radio network. During 1955 the Brigade responded to the highest number of fire calls in its history, a total of 1,346, being an increase of 436 calls on 1954. The damage by fire to property

in the City area was estimated at \$3,313,752 for the year. The Brigade's Accident Ambulance Service responded to 10,628 calls during the year, an increase of 2,206 calls on the previous year. There were a number of serious warehouse fires and outbreaks in areas of flimsy thatched dwellings in congested squatter villages, the most serious of this latter type of fire being at Kampong Silat on 30th September.

The Fire Brigade does not merely concern itself with the extinction of fire but carries out much work in the instruction of employees of industrial undertakings in fire fighting. In addition, plans of new buildings are scrutinised and their sites inspected. Hazardous trades are controlled under a number of regulations. In 1955 almost 33,000 inspections were made under the Dangerous Trades and Petroleum Ordinances.

DRAINAGE AND FLOOD RELIEF

The flooding which occurred on the Island in December 1954, as a result of exceptional rainfall, was so severe and widespread that a new branch of the Public Works Department was established to plan flood alleviation measures on an island-wide basis. In March, a preliminary assessment was made by the Chief Drainage Engineer which showed that effective flood prevention measures in Singapore would involve major works, costing many millions of dollars. The necessary staff for the new branch was then engaged and detailed surveys were made in the various catchment areas. A scheme for the drainage of the Bedok and Ketapang Catchments at an estimated cost of half a million dollars, in addition to \$350,000 for land acquisition, was accepted by the Government, and work started in November. This will prevent a recurrence of the situation in December 1954 when 600 acres were under water, including some 2,000 feet of the Changi Road. The scheme involves the construction of a flood reservoir covering 140 acres and of a main outlet channel from the reservoir to the sea. The replacement of four culverts under the Bedok and Changi Roads will be necessary, and the bed of the Ketapang River below the Changi Road will be lowered to provide quicker drainage. In addition, it is proposed to isolate the catchment of the Ketapang from that of the Bedok River by a bund on the left bank of the Bedok main drain and by raising the Changi Road.

In the City area, six main canals and rivers carry the surface water drainage to the sea. Dredging of these canals and rivers is continuous and the City Council employs five excavators on this

work. Good progress was made on widening the existing canal reserves along the Sungei Whampoa between Thomson Road and Serangoon Road, and on widening the Sungei Kallang from Braddell Road to Serangoon Road.

The removal of bottle-necks in these canals and rivers necessitated considerable bridge building. This included new bridges over the Stamford Canal in Orchard Road and Cuscaden Road, the reconstruction of the Serangoon Road Bridge over the Sungei Whampoa and the reconstruction of the Geylang Road Bridge over the Sungei Geylang. Work on the last two was still in progress at the end of the year. The pilot scheme for the diversion of the head waters of the Alexandra Canal to the Sungei Ulu Pandan was completed and operated successfully in spite of the difficult nature of the ground traversed. In all, the City Council incurred expenditure of \$1,238,600 on drainage and flood alleviation during the year.

SEWERAGE

The construction of a modern sewerage system was begun by the local authority in 1912 and at the end of 1955 there were 210.43 miles of sewers with connections to 23,052 public buildings and private premises. During the year 15.64 miles of sewers and a total of 1,892 connections were laid. 7,707 sanitary fittings (W.Cs. and urinals) were connected to the system in 1955, a record for the Department and this number is equal to the total number connected to the system in the whole of the 6-year period 1935-40 inclusive. Nearly all the premises served by the City Council's water-borne sewerage system are within the city limits and their sewage is pumped through ten pumping stations to sewage disposal works at Alexandra Road and Kim Chuan Road, which during 1955 dealt with a total of 7,276 million gallons. The effluent from these modern works is inoffensive and their sludge is discharged to sludge drying and disposal works on the left bank of the Serangoon River where it is used for reclaiming the swampy land in the vicinity.

Although the greater portion of the sewerage system is laid within the City area and has sufficient capacity to deal with that area there are many premises in the older and more congested parts which are not yet connected up. This is due to the fact that these houses were built long before the sewers were laid and are so constructed that the laying of branch sewers is not possible without considerable expense. An attempt is now being made to connect as

many as possible by laying sewers under the walls and open spaces of these houses. In the meantime, their sewage disposal is by night-soil buckets collected by the City Cleansing and Hawker Department and conveyed in a modern fleet of vans to the pumping stations where it is pumped to the sewage disposal works for treatment.

In those parts of the Island beyond the City Council's sewerage system 238 small purification plants are maintained, serving premises in their immediate vicinity. Thirteen of these were constructed or acquired during 1955.

The City Engineer's Department maintains a staff of sanitary engineers and inspectors whose duty it is to ensure that adequate sanitary arrangements are provided in private premises and to supervise the installation of all sanitary fittings. During 1955 the owners of 1,207 properties were required to instal or improve existing sanitary fittings. In the majority of cases the requirements were met without recourse to the courts.

CITY CLEANSING

For city cleansing purposes the City area is divided into three divisions and subdivided into fourteen cleansing districts. Every roadway and street vested in the City Council within the City is swept daily (except on Sundays) by workmen working with hand-carts and brooms. These carts transport street sweepings and drain refuse to steel street containers which when full are collected by wagons with specially designed cranes. The principal streets and the numerous roadside drains are sprinkled daily by 3 water vans or flushed by 32 metered handcarts from hydrants. There is also a daily collection (except on Sundays) of all domestic and shop refuse which is placed in private bins. The direct collection of refuse is made from verandahs by a fleet of 23 modern type collecting vehicles. An average of 20,308 bins of domestic refuse and 23,971 bins of shop refuse are collected daily (except on Sundays).

The new Labour Ordinance enforcing a 44-hour week became effective as from 5th December, 1955 and daily rated cleansing employees are working 7 hours 20 minutes with 10 minutes break instead of 8 hours daily. Cleansing services was carried out daily, but as from September 1954 work has been done on 6 days in the week—Sunday being a day of rest for the workmen.

Incombustible refuse is conveyed to a controlled tipping site at Bendemeer where it is used to reclaim swamp land. Tin cans are

collected and baled for sale. All combustible refuse is now conveyed to Kolam Ayer Incinerator and the ash residue is used to form a seal covering over the incombustible refuse tipped at Bendemeer. A bulldozer was hired from the Plant Depot, Engineer's Department, to level the refuse into the swamps. The bulldozer, 5 tons in weight, did the work so satisfactorily that it was possible to cut the use of planks on the tipping site. At least 6 wagons can be unloaded at the same time this way. The bulldozer is worked daily. During 1955 the City Cleansing and Hawker Department disposed of 142,185 tons of refuse and of this 22,263 tons were incinerated.

Daily collection (except on Sundays) of nightsoil is made by 52 compartment collecting vehicles from 23,819 latrines in 19,056 houses and disposed of at 3 disposal stations. Portable aluminium latrines are hired out by the Department for use at wayang and circus performances on vacant lands for a nominal fee. The City Cleansing and Hawker Department collected 9,579,739 pails of nightsoil during 1955.

The question of control of hawkers which is another aspect of the work of the City Cleansing Department proved to be in 1955 as difficult and complex as before. A special Hawkers Committee was appointed by the City Council in July to review the Council's policy towards the hawker problem of the City with special reference to the question of permitting all hawkers, with a few exceptions, to carry on their trade unlicensed and with the minimum possible restrictions in such streets and areas as are declared open to hawkers. The Report of the Committee was adopted by the Council in October with slight amendments and the necessary amendments to the Municipal Ordinance and the Hawkers By-laws to enable the Committee's recommendations to be implemented, are being drafted by the Council's legal advisers. The recommendations adopted by the Council provide, *inter alia*, (a) that *bona fide* itinerant hawkers of wares other than the specified articles of food or drink should not be required to be licensed but should be permitted to carry on their trade in streets or areas not prohibited to itinerant hawkers, (b) for the utilisation of vacant City Council, Crown or the Singapore Improvement Trust land in suitable areas to accommodate static hawkers and for owners of private land in suitable areas to utilise their land for the same purpose under licence from the City Council, and (c) for the setting up of a new department to be known as the "Market and Hawkers Department" to control markets and hawkers.

many as possible by laying sewers under the walls and open spaces of these houses. In the meantime, their sewage disposal is by night-soil buckets collected by the City Cleansing and Hawker Department and conveyed in a modern fleet of vans to the pumping stations where it is pumped to the sewage disposal works for treatment.

In those parts of the Island beyond the City Council's sewerage system 238 small purification plants are maintained, serving premises in their immediate vicinity. Thirteen of these were constructed or acquired during 1955.

The City Engineer's Department maintains a staff of sanitary engineers and inspectors whose duty it is to ensure that adequate sanitary arrangements are provided in private premises and to supervise the installation of all sanitary fittings. During 1955 the owners of 1,207 properties were required to instal or improve existing sanitary fittings. In the majority of cases the requirements were met without recourse to the courts.

CITY CLEANSING

For city cleansing purposes the City area is divided into three divisions and subdivided into fourteen cleansing districts. Every roadway and street vested in the City Council within the City is swept daily (except on Sundays) by workmen working with hand-carts and brooms. These carts transport street sweepings and drain refuse to steel street containers which when full are collected by wagons with specially designed cranes. The principal streets and the numerous roadside drains are sprinkled daily by 3 water vans or flushed by 32 metered handcarts from hydrants. There is also a daily collection (except on Sundays) of all domestic and shop refuse which is placed in private bins. The direct collection of refuse is made from verandahs by a fleet of 23 modern type collecting vehicles. An average of 20,308 bins of domestic refuse and 23,971 bins of shop refuse are collected daily (except on Sundays).

The new Labour Ordinance enforcing a 44-hour week became effective as from 5th December, 1955 and daily rated cleansing employees are working 7 hours 20 minutes with 10 minutes break instead of 8 hours daily. Cleansing services was carried out daily, but as from September 1954 work has been done on 6 days in the week—Sunday being a day of rest for the workmen.

Incombustible refuse is conveyed to a controlled tipping site at Bendemeer where it is used to reclaim swamp land. Tin cans are

collected and baled for sale. All combustible refuse is now conveyed to Kolam Ayer Incinerator and the ash residue is used to form a seal covering over the incombustible refuse tipped at Bendemeer. A bulldozer was hired from the Plant Depôt, Engineer's Department, to level the refuse into the swamps. The bulldozer, 5 tons in weight, did the work so satisfactorily that it was possible to cut the use of planks on the tipping site. At least 6 wagons can be unloaded at the same time this way. The bulldozer is worked daily. During 1955 the City Cleansing and Hawker Department disposed of 142,185 tons of refuse and of this 22,263 tons were incinerated.

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At the end of the year there were 5,504 licensed itinerant hawkers, 1,782 stationary hawkers with day pitch licences, 1,048 stationary hawkers with night pitch licences and 1,905 hawkers accommodated in 15 hawker shelters and markets. Nominal fees are charged for licences except those issued for the hawker shelters where a small rent is also charged.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department takes a major part in the expansion of the social services mentioned elsewhere in this book and in 1955 it had an extremely good year. Expenditure on new works, a useful yardstick of work done, jumped from \$23.7 millions in 1954 to approximately \$32 millions in 1955, an increase of 33 per cent in output. Of the many important projects undertaken, only a few can be mentioned. The programme of primary school building for the 3 years 1953, 1954 and 1955 was 36 schools. The majority have been completed and the remainder will be ready early in 1956. Another 18 schools were already under construction or at the stage of calling for tenders when the year ended. The Teachers Training College has made good progress, two demonstration schools are complete and two lecture blocks are under construction. Two Junior Technical Schools are being built.

Considerable expansion at hospitals has been achieved. The new Surgical Block, comprising operating theatres and wards, at the General Hospital was completed early in the year. The Mistri Children's Wing, the result of a general gift of the late Mr. N. R. Mistri of nearly \$1 million, was opened on 14th October. Another nurses hostel for 200 probationers and a nurses training school are under construction. A million gallon water reservoir has been completed at the General Hospital to cope with increased consumption and to provide a reserve in case of break down of the main supply. At Kandang Kerbau Maternity Hospital a new administration block and out-patients department were opened in mid-year and the Nurses Hostel is now complete. Two 6-storey ward buildings at Tan Tock Seng Hospital are under construction and will be completed in 1956.

Work on the 2,000 feet long Kallang Bridge proceeded according to schedule and it is expected to be completed in June 1956. Construction of roads and drains in the Tanjong Rhu area for the firewood merchants and others who have to be moved from Beach Road and Crawford Street to make way for the approach

road was carried out. The approach roads on both sides are being built by the City Council. The bridge itself costing \$7 millions will be the biggest pre-stressed concrete bridge in South-East Asia; it will provide major relief to the traffic problem in the eastern approaches to the City. For the first time in history Pulau Brani was given a piped water supply by means of a locally made armoured rubber pipe—1,260 feet in length—which the department laid across Keppel Harbour.

One of the first acts of the elected Government was to investigate methods whereby greater economy and austerity could be achieved in the construction of public buildings without any undue increase in maintenance costs or loss of functional efficiency. In pursuance of this policy, it was decided to establish an Advisory Panel on public works, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Communications and Works, with a membership to include representatives of the City Council, Singapore Improvement Trust and the Institute of Architects. It will be one of the functions of this Panel to consider any building project estimated to cost more than \$1 million which is submitted to it by the Government, the City Council or the Singapore Improvement Trust. To ensure maximum economy and austerity in smaller projects, the inter-departmental Public Works Standing Committee was instructed to examine all building projects in consultation with the department concerned and to decide upon the scope, standard and finishes to be provided. In addition, Working Parties were set up to consider in detail the minimum standards of accommodation to be adopted for schools and medical buildings. Although the full effect of all these measures can only be gradual, they had already led to the saving of public funds by the end of the year.

City Architect

The City Architect and Building Surveyor is responsible in his capacity as architect for the design, construction and maintenance of most of the buildings belonging to the City Council.

Twenty-two projects to the value of \$2,166,507 which were started in 1954 were finished in 1955 and a further 41 contracts to the value of \$602,594 were let and the work completed during the year. Also 21 contracts to the value of \$1,907,281 were made during the year but work on these will not be completed until 1956. It was necessary, owing to staffing difficulties and the large number of approved building projects, to allocate work amounting to \$1,581,000 to private architects. Important works completed

were two sub-dispensaries and three Infant Welfare Clinics for the Health Department and the Electricity Store at Thomson Road for the City Electrical Engineer's Department.

The City Architect also controls the City parks, children's playgrounds, swimming pools, stadia and the Van Kleeef Aquarium. The latter building was opened to the public on the 8th September, 1955 after many setbacks due to the high mortality rate of the marine fishes. However, since that date until the end of the year the Aquarium proved to be very popular and attracted 166,363 visitors to view the fine display of tropical fish both salt and fresh water.

The functions of the Building Surveyor's Branch of the City Architect and Building Surveyor's Department are mentioned in Chapter VIII.

XV

COMMUNICATIONS

SINGAPORE OWES much of its wealth and continuing prosperity to its situation as the natural centre for the sea and air routes of South-East Asia. It is a port of call for ships and aeroplanes plying from India, Africa, Europe and America on the one hand and Australasia and the Pacific on the other. A network of feeder services, by air and by sea, connect it with its neighbours while much of the traffic with the Federation is carried by rail and by road.

More people work in these communication services than in any other category of industry in Singapore.

SHIPPING

Singapore has been a free port since Sir Stamford Raffles stipulated that "trade is open to all ships and vessels of every nation, free of duty and alike to all."

When the first Master Attendant was appointed in 1820, sailing vessels were loaded and unloaded in the Singapore River. It was not until after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, when steamships replaced sailing boats, that the interocean traffic moved to the wharves built by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co. and the Singapore River became a point of discharge for lighters.

Today the port of Singapore includes Keppel Harbour (the wharves and godowns of which are controlled by the Singapore Harbour Board), the oil installations at Pulau Bukom and Pulau Sēbarok owned by the Shell and the Standard Vacuum Oil Companies respectively, the Western Anchorage, the Eastern Roads and the Singapore, Rochore, Kallang and other smaller rivers as far as they are navigable.

Control of shipping throughout the port is exercised by the Master Attendant. He is responsible for the navigational aids in

the port and its approaches, for all signal stations, the registry of shipping, the engagement and discharge of seamen and the examination of masters and mates.

SHIPS

Singapore is a port of registry for British ships. Local legislation provides for the licensing of various cargo and passenger craft which ply within the territorial waters of the Colony. Native sailing craft, which carry cargoes between Malayan and Indonesian ports, and fishing vessels are also licensed locally, the majority of them being owned by Chinese resident in Singapore.

SHIPS REGISTERED AND LICENSED AT SINGAPORE ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

				<i>No. of Ships</i>	<i>Net Tonnage</i>
<i>British Ships</i>					
Permanent Registry (under Part I of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894):					
Steam	...	...	...	24	18,762
Motor	...	...	...	147	37,348
Sailing	...	...	...	90	13,410
Terminable Registry (under section 90 of the Act):					
Steam	...	...	...	2	39
Motor	...	...	...	79	1,138
Sailing	...	...	...	12	555
<i>Licensed Vessels</i>					
Sailing ships (not exceeding 200 gross tons each)	...	...	...	376	27,976
Cargo boats (not exceeding 100 gross tons each)	...	...	...	2,309	48,927
Passenger boats (not exceeding 100 gross tons each)	...	...	...	195	370
Fishing vessels (no limit of size)	...	...	...	3,077	—

The arrival of ships must be reported to the Port Office of the Marine Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Ships may not leave the Port without a clearance from the same office.

Eighty ships of the Royal Navy and 60 warships and fleet auxiliaries of other nations visited the port in 1955.

MOVEMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS IN 1955

	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Cleared</i>	<i>Total tonnage (Millions of tons net: entry and clearance counted as separate transactions)</i>
Foreign-going ships over 75 tons ...	6,727	6,687	49.41
Home-trade ships over 75 tons ...	1,409	1,378	1.81
Local-trade ships over 75 tons ...	1,880	1,914	0.92
Ships under 75 tons and native craft of all tonnages ...	9,324	9,329	1.02
Total ...	<u>19,340</u>	<u>19,308</u>	<u>53.16</u>

Shipping Services

Frequent passenger and cargo services run to all parts of the world. Most of the important shipping lines maintain agencies in Singapore which is the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Far East Freight Conference.

Two ships carried pilgrims travelling to Jeddah from Singapore and the Federation of Malaya.

Regular passenger and freight services to Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Sarawak, North Borneo and the Federation of Malaya are operated by the Straits Steamship Co. This company with its associates owns 64 ships. The Malayan Stevedoring and Transportation Company continues to operate its fleet of tugs and sea-going lighters.

CREWS

The local laws relating to seamen are similar, basically, to those in other parts of the British Commonwealth but there are many modifications to suit the very mixed seafaring population of the Colony. There are some 6,000 Singapore seamen at sea at any one time. The Shipping Office of the Marine Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry signs crews on and off the Articles of ships. This Office also administers the laws in connection with the manning of ships by certificated officers and various other matters pertaining to the clearance of ships from port and the transit of seafarers. Twenty-three distressed British seamen were received during the year and repatriated or found employment. Thirty-one Singapore seamen were returned to Singapore.

Owing to the shortage of certificated deck officers in Singapore during the year, 24 British vessels were granted exemptions under section 14 (2) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance from requirements regarding the employment of deck officers. These exemptions enabled the ships to keep to their schedule of sailings.

SHIPPING OFFICE

		1952	1953	1954	1955
Articles opened	...	515	514	482	427
Seamen signed on:					
European	...	1,055	1,441	1,336	1,401
Asian	...	18,189	17,824	15,681	14,925
Total	...	<u>19,244</u>	<u>19,265</u>	<u>17,017</u>	<u>16,326</u>
Seamen signed off:					
European	...	1,154	1,466	1,567	1,512
Asian	...	18,023	17,919	14,486	14,909
Total	...	<u>19,177</u>	<u>19,385</u>	<u>16,053</u>	<u>16,421</u>

As Registrar of Seamen the Master Attendant maintains a specialised type of labour exchange for Asian sailors known as the Seamen's Registration Bureau. This was established in 1949 with the object of reducing the impositions to which seamen in port are apt to be subject.

SEAMEN'S REGISTRATION BUREAU

	<i>Number on the Register excluding those untraceable on 31st December</i>				<i>Vacancies filled</i>			
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1952	1953	1954	1955
Chinese ..	11,576	12,278	12,225	12,104*	5,187	5,380	4,585	4,516
Malays ..	3,861	3,949	3,998	3,841	3,157	2,904	3,134	2,123
Others ..	977	994	729	712	300	229	119	125
Totals ..	<u>16,414</u>	<u>17,221</u>	<u>16,952</u>	<u>16,657</u>	<u>8,644</u>	<u>8,513</u>	<u>7,838</u>	<u>6,764</u>

* Includes 3,421 seamen classified as chinchews and compradores' staff.

Complete facilities for the examination of all grades of Merchant Navy officers for certificates of competency are maintained. Those certificates which have international validity are issued in the name of the Governor. Arrangements exist with the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in the United Kingdom for ensuring strict uniformity between Colony certificates and those issued elsewhere in the Commonwealth. Examinations for local certificates are set and papers marked by the Marine Division for deck grades and by the Marine Surveys Division for engine room grades. Revised examination rules and syllabuses came into force on 1st May for all grades of local deck certificates. These had the effect of raising the standard of the examinations.

EXAMINATION OF DECK AND ENGINEER OFFICERS

Examinations conducted Certificates issued

1952 1953 1954 1955 1952 1953 1954 1955

Internationally valid certificates:

Foreign-going Masters and Mates	..	..	2	8	18	15	—	1	4	3
Engineers	..	..	51	38	51	49	7	4	10	11

Local certificates:

Deck grades	..	..	766	877	319	250	262	412	123	90
Engine room grades	..	..	295	244	215	236	240	194	180	145

There were no facilities for tuition in advanced subjects until the Nautical School was established under the Department of Education in 1952. Nine pupils attended the cadet course at the school, 11 pupils studied for deck certificates and there were 26 studying for engineer's certificates.

The Singapore Mercantile Marine Fund Committee continued its charitable activities on behalf of seamen and during the year donations were made as follows:—

	\$	c.
Sailors' homes, charitable institutions and missions ...	41,100	00
Relief to aged seafarers and their dependants ...	128,528	32
Nautical School	50,000	00
Singapore Asian Seamen's Club (initial payment) ...	10,000	00
Connell House Swimming Pool (final payment) ...	15,090	96

During the year a committee was appointed to establish and maintain a club for Asian seamen. Funds for this purpose have been promised by Government and by the Singapore Mercantile Marine Fund Committee, and a site has been allocated at South Quay. Plans have been approved and test borings and level surveys have been completed. It is expected that piling work will begin early in 1956.

Two new posts were created to deal with the welfare of seamen, the Seamen's Industrial Relations Officer and one assistant. The former post was taken up in December; the post of assistant is to be filled during 1956.

SAFETY

Ship Survey

The loadline and safety requirements in the Colony are based on international conventions of 1929, 1930 and 1948. Ships on international voyages over 500 tons gross in Colony waters are thus surveyed and certificated to the same standards as in the world's

leading maritime states and other vessels outside the scope of the 1948 Convention are being similarly treated as far as is practicable. The principal advances resulting from more recent requirements relate to fire fighting on board, radio, the stability of vessels, the loading of certain kinds of cargo and the provision of life saving appliances and direction finding apparatus.

Apart from these world-wide requirements for larger ships there are two international agreements of more local validity: the Simla Rules of 1931 which apply to ships carrying unberthed passengers between Ceylon, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia and Singapore and a set of agreements with Thailand, Indonesia and Indo-China made in 1935 at the instance of the Straits Settlements Government applying to non-passenger ships trading between those countries.

Surveys in the Colony are mainly undertaken by the Marine Surveys Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and vary in extent from an exhaustive and specialised inspection of the entire structure, machinery and equipment in drydock and afloat, to the examination of some minor component. From a small beginning in 1861 when a surveyor was appointed primarily for the tonnage measurement of ships the present Division has grown in response to increasingly rigorous international safety requirements. There are now 9 surveyors working under the direction of the Surveyor-General of Ships. In addition to survey work in the port the Division is also responsible for examining ships' engineers and engine drivers for certificates of competency, for the technical maintenance of all Government owned vessels, for professional advice to Government departments and for supervising the construction and repair in Singapore of all vessels owned by the Governments of the Colony and of the Federation of Malaya.

SHIP SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS, 1955

Passenger and Safety Certificates	...	...	...	50
Safety Equipment Certificates	...	...	...	86
Loadline Certificates	...	...	...	82
Bottom Certificates	...	...	...	17
Certificates of Survey for Tonnage	...	...	...	40
Life saving appliances	...	...	...	43
Lights and sound signals	...	...	...	104
Radiotelegraphy and Radiotelephony Certificates	...	...	...	185
Petroleum Certificates	...	...	...	110
Miscellaneous Safety Surveys	...	...	...	250
Minor Surveys and Inspections (Government vessels)	...	...	...	700

Navigational Aids

There are five major lighthouses under the jurisdiction of the Master Attendant. Only one, the Fort Canning Lighthouse, is on Singapore Island. The Master Attendant is responsible for the maintenance of all buoys and the lights on all beacons, the Director of Public Works being responsible for structural maintenance of lighthouses and beacons. Between July and October all buoys and beacons were converted to conform with the Uniform System of Buoyage. At the end of the year there were 27 buoys on station of which 8 were lit and 51 stone beacons of which 18 were lit.

The Malayan Meteorological Service broadcasts twice daily weather forecasts for the South China Sea and Straits of Malacca and prepares daily Fleet Synoptic Broadcasts. Ships in these areas, in accordance with the provisions of international conventions for the safety of life at sea, make regular weather reports. During the year, 5,950 reports were received through the coast radio stations at Penang and Singapore. Eleven specially selected ships, equipped with meteorological instruments, made routine meteorological observations, maintained weather logs and reported at fixed times by radio. Specially selected ships, and ships equipped with meteorological instruments by other countries, were visited whilst in port; their instruments were checked and replaced when necessary.

The radio-telephonic equipment by which communication is made with the Port Office is provided and maintained by the Director of Telecommunications. Meteorological messages, navigational warnings and distress messages to and from ships at sea are handled by the Singapore Radio Coast Station, call sign VPW, operated by the Telecommunications Department. Licences for radio stations on board ships registered in Singapore and certificates of proficiency for radio-telegraph and radio-telephone operators are also dealt with by that Department. During the year 52 Ships Station Licences and 16 Radio Operator's Certificates were issued. Under the requirements of the International Radio Convention and the Colony Merchant Shipping Rules, the radio installations on board Ship Stations were regularly examined, and 240 certificates of international validity were issued by the Surveyor-General of Ships with the assistance of the radio officers of the Telecommunications Department.

Pilotage is not compulsory in Singapore but is much used owing to the difficulties of berthing in a congested harbour with strong tides.

Hydrographic Surveying

In February, large scale hydrographic surveys were carried out off the newly constructed oil jetty at Pasir Panjang Power Station to determine safe draughts for tankers making use of the jetty. Similar surveys were made off Tanjong Tereh, Pulau Brani in April, June and September following the grounding of a vessel in that vicinity. The April survey confirmed the existence of depths more shallow than had hitherto been charted.

Areas off the Detached Mole and the Outer Shoal Beacon were also surveyed during the year to ascertain the effect of salvage operations and prove them clear of obstructions.

The position off Katong where the *Lexa Maersk* was first beached was examined for traces of wreckage after the vessel had been towed away. An area adjacent to the Outer Shoal was also examined and no trace could be found of an obstruction reported by a vessel entering the port.

In November a secondary triangulation of the Singapore Roads and Western Approaches was started to determine the precise positions of objects conspicuous to navigators and to provide the basis for a sextant graph network to cover the entire area.

Shipping Casualties

During the year 47 shipping casualties were reported under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance. A preliminary enquiry in respect of the stranding of m.v. *Cornfish*, O.N.179786 Penang, at Beacon No. 1 on 8th September was held on 3rd October at the request of the Government of the Federation of Malaya.

No courts of investigation were held during the year. Two minor ex-Japanese wrecks were completely removed and the wreck buoys marking these dangers were withdrawn. Progress continued on the breaking up of the *Empress of Asia* and the *Sirdhana*; and the breaking up of the *Oscar II* was practically completed by the end of the year. The Danish vessel *Lexa Maersk*, which was beached off Tanjong Rhu at the end of 1954 following a fire, caught fire again early in September. The first was extinguished in a few hours by tugs of the Singapore Harbour Board and the Shell Company, and the *Lexa Maersk* was subsequently towed to Sungei Pandan to be broken up. During September the Danish vessel *Benny Skou* arrived in port with a fire in her cargo of baled cotton which was extinguished by Singapore Harbour Board tugs using carbon dioxide gas. In October a fire in a cargo of copra cake carried by the Norwegian vessel *Troja* was extinguished by Singapore Harbour Board tugs and the Shell Company's tug

Berguna by means of carbon dioxide gas and partial flooding of the affected hold. The British unregistered fishing vessel *Meegamu Maru* on passage from Japan to her new owners in Colombo, capsized during August whilst in Singapore Outer Roads while taking fresh water into her tanks. The vessel which was righted and salvaged by a local salvage company, was refitted and proceeded to her destination in October. The Singapore Harbour Board's salvage tug *Griper* carried out one deep sea towing operation, bringing the Norwegian vessel *Peter Reed* from Dungun on the East Coast of Malaya to Singapore. The Harbour Board tugs *Mitra* and *Skillful* refloated a vessel aground off Peak Island and the tug *Tolong* refloated a vessel aground at No. 1 Beacon.

Cargo Inspection

Vessels carrying cargoes of explosives were examined by the Inspectorate of Dangerous Materials to ensure safety in respect of condition, packing and stowage.

The handling of dangerous and inflammable cargoes is a matter requiring constant vigilance in so large and busy a port as Singapore. It is subject to a variety of laws based on United Kingdom procedure. Responsibility for the administration of these laws rests with the Marine Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry whilst cargoes are afloat, with the Singapore Harbour Board when they are within its premises, and with the City Fire Brigade. Technical assistance is rendered by the Department of Chemistry which in 1955 examined 567 ships and land tanks containing various types of petroleum to ensure that they were free of inflammable vapour and were otherwise safe prior to docking or repair. Such examinations of ships are usually carried out in the Outer Roads. Much laboratory work was done checking the flash points of petroleum and testing explosives prior to import.

THE PORT

CARGO HANDLED IN 1955 (in 1,000 tons)

	LOADED			DISCHARGED			Grand Total	Percentage of Total
	Mineral Oil	General Cargo	Total	Mineral Oil	General Cargo	Total		
Pulau Bukom and Pulau Sēbarok ..	2,720	—	2,720	4,422	—	4,422	7,141	43.4
Roads ..	634	888	1,522	781	2,356	3,136	4,659	28.3
Singapore Harbour Board Wharves ..	14	1,770	1,784	789	2,086	2,875	4,659	28.3
Total ..	3,368	2,658	6,026	5,992	4,442	10,433	16,459	100.0

The Singapore Harbour Board

The Singapore Harbour Board wharves handled cargo (including coal and fuel oil) amounting to some 5,661,609 scale tons. Altogether 3,573 ships berthed alongside the cargo wharves, their aggregate registered tonnage being 10,742,498 tons net. Although the number of vessels handled was 147 fewer than in 1954 the volume of cargo handled showed an increase of 3 per cent.

The Board's godowns experienced no congestion during the year. A greater number of vessels were unberthed on arrival than in previous years but the delay to shipping never reached serious proportions. Eight more berths were fully mechanised during the year, and three more remain to be so developed in order to complete the mechanisation of all the Board's wharves. By the end of the year 35,000 pallets were in use whilst thirty-two 6,000 lb. fork-lift trucks and one of 18,000 lb. were added to the Board's fleet. Two additional diesel locomotives were also put into service. To facilitate the supervision and delivery of cargo additional section offices were erected at the Coal Plant and at Godowns 7 and 40/43. New office accommodation was also provided at five other godowns and work begun on a further three section offices.

The Board's clerical and cognate staff were on strike on the 15th April and during the period between the 30th April and 8th July. However the Port continued to function, all duties being performed by the senior staff, the labour force and the few clerks who did not join the strike. Co-operation given by the shipping companies and the mercantile community assisted considerably during this period.

The inaugural meeting of a Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee comprising representatives of the Board and the three Waterside Workers' Unions was held on 8th August.

A new berthing tug *Tunda* built by the Board's Dockyard Department was put into service late in the year. This tug is equipped with two 900 g.p.m. fire pumps and two 6" fire boat monitors.

The Board's Fire Brigade attended 135 calls during the year and were equipped with one additional Dennis F.8 fire engine.

Ships Bunkers and Stores

Coal is loaded either by lighters in Kallang Basin or from hoppers at the Singapore Harbour Board wharves and a total of 8,870 tons was supplied to ships registered outside Malaya. The three firms who supplied coal for bunkers since 1869 merged in 1946. The principal oil installation is at Pulau Bukom, an island

some 3 miles outside the western entrance to Keppel Harbour. Ships are also bunkered from Pulau Sēbarok and small mobile tankers are moored in the Western Anchorage and from pipe lines on the Singapore Harbour Board's premises. During the year 1,756,000 tons of fuel oil were supplied to ships registered outside Malaya compared with 1,676,000 tons in 1954. Fresh water is supplied from pipes at the Harbour Board's wharves and ships berthed elsewhere are supplied by a local firm, established in 1863. Shipping was supplied with 2,186,035 tons of fresh water during the year.

A large number of firms are engaged in providing ships stores and chandlery of all kinds. Stores to a value of \$12,700,000 were supplied to ships registered outside Malaya, the value of the supplies being some \$500,000 less than in 1954.

Public and Private Quays

Outside the limits of the Harbour Board the quays in the City area are maintained by the Public Works Department. No dues are charged for the use of these quays and no cargo handling equipment is provided. Constant dredging is carried out by the Public Works Department in the Singapore River and the inshore parts of the Inner Roads.

In the rural areas there are few facilities. Small traders dealing with Johore and the neighbouring islands bring their craft to public and privately owned jetties along the coast. Some hundreds of small vessels use these facilities to load and discharge cargoes of fish, vegetables, firewood, stone and general merchandise.

Marine and Port Police

The Marine Division of the Singapore Police Force is responsible for policing the islands and waters within the territorial limits of the Colony. It also enforces the laws relating to the Port. At the end of the year its full force was 639 all ranks, and its fleet included 38 launches and 33 other boats, among them a fuel barge with a storage capacity of 1,000 gallons, and 15 outboard motor boats. In addition the Marine Police manned and maintained five outboard motor boats belonging to the Federation of Malaya Police.

Police boats carry out regular day and night patrols in the busier parts of the harbour particularly the Outer and Inner Roads, Telok Ayer Basin and the Singapore, Rochore and Kallang Rivers. Summons totalling 2,155 were taken out by patrol boats for offences under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance and Singapore Port Rules.

The provision of guards on vessels and of escorts and assistance to distressed craft form part of the day to day duties of the Marine Division. Two hundred and eight investigations, one less than in 1954, were put up and 79 cases of theft were reported. The Marine Police handled 5 cases of serious crime including 2 murders in which the victims were strangled in Singapore and dumped into the sea.

The eastern and western Straits of Johore are patrolled night and day by the Marine Police in order to prevent any movement of supplies to Communist terrorists in South Johore. No changes were made in the measures in force in the Straits during the year. There were 49 offenders, 93 less than in 1954, consisting of fishermen who had broken the curfew at night and a few amateur yachtsmen who strayed unwittingly into the curfew area. The five searchlight units continued their work. In February their strength was reduced from 154 to 138 because better storage facilities for arms and ammunition at four posts made supplementary guards redundant. Since September regular weekly cinema shows have been held at the five posts.

In March, 82 members of the special force employed at Pulau Bukom Besar by the Shell Company were enrolled under the Police Force Ordinance as extra constables. This unit is employed by the Company but is trained and disciplined by the O.C., Marine Division. All members have received rigorous training in fire fighting.

On the 9th June, 15 police boats and 56 regular and V.S.C. personnel were on duty when 15 of Her Majesty's ships were open to the public. In September three police boats under the command of Inspectors took part in the Review and Steam Past when His Highness the Sultan of Johore took the salute on the occasion of his Diamond Jubilee.

Twenty-one Marine policemen were loaned for duty during the elections in April and the Marine Police gave 33,461 man-hours of assistance during the bus strikes in May and June and the City Council strike in August and September. On 11 occasions police boats stood by at regattas.

The prevention of crime on land is the duty of the Colony Police Force, but within its own precincts the Singapore Harbour Board is authorised to operate its own Police Force. Its authorised strength remained at 388 all ranks. Thirty-four recruits were accepted into the Force from over 2,000 applications.

Three hundred and thirty-one reports of theft were recorded, mainly cases of pilferages of the type common in large ports. One theft, by forged documents, involved a loss of textiles valued at \$21,000.

The Harbour Board Force continued to maintain strict control of small craft operating along the Port's seaward frontages. It checked the contents of 5,127 lighters during the year and officers of the Force visited 3,297 sea-going vessels in connection with the supervision of arms, explosives and dangerous cargo.

The Singapore Harbour Board Reserve which is designed to ensure the uninterrupted handling of ships' cargo in time of emergency comprises 19 officers, 114 N.C.Os. and 368 other ranks, a total of 501.

Quarantine Control

Quarantine control is enforced by the Port Health Office of the Medical Department in collaboration with the Customs, Immigration and Marine Departments. The quarantine station is in St. John's Island, 3 miles south of Singapore and is capable of accommodating 1,200 passengers from ships from infected ports.

SHIP BUILDING AND REPAIR

Singapore Harbour Board Dockyard

The volume of ship repair work undertaken in the Harbour Board's dockyards compared favourably with that of previous years and the labour force, dry docks and workshops continued to be fully occupied. Four hundred and twenty-four ships having a total tonnage of 1,153,000 gross tons were dry docked.

The strike of clerical and other monthly paid staff lasting 10 weeks from 30th April, caused some administrative difficulties but no trouble affecting the Board's artisan labour was experienced. Work in the dockyards continued without interruption during the strike and no ships under repair were delayed to any extent.

Landed costs of steel and other commodities from overseas took a sudden upward trend and these factors coupled with a general rise in wage rates made inevitable an increase in repair costs to shipping using the Board's facilities.

Work continued on Queen's Dock, the new medium sized graving dock in West Keppel Harbour Dockyard planned for completion by mid-1956. The prefabricated steel work for the box gate for closing the dock was delivered during the year. The major part

of the walls and the floor within the gate were also cast, and work progressed with the 10-ton Monotower crane which is to serve the eastern side of the new dock and with pumping equipment. A new 5-ton Monotower crane was assembled and put into use at the main repair wharf at Keppel Harbour and an order placed for a further 10-ton Monotower crane which will give additional crannage at King's Dock.

Workshop equipment has been maintained at a high state of efficiency. A heavy duty bed lathe was purchased and installed in the machine shop and an order placed for a 100-ton testing machine for anchor cables and other heavy type cargo gear now common on deep sea dry cargo vessels. Additional welding equipment was installed to cope with the demands of modern all-welded and partly welded vessels. During the year the keel was laid for a new vehicle and passenger ferry for the Penang Harbour Board. The Board's slipway at Tanjong Rhu continued to work at full capacity, 180 vessels being slipped during the year. A new slipway at Bukit Chermin was put into use at the end of the year and six vessels were slipped during December.

The Civil Engineering Department in the Harbour Board also completed extensions to two existing bulk latex installations and began work on two new installations which, on completion, will bring the total storage capacity for latex to some 1½ million gallons with shipment from seven main berths. A storage godown of 8,400 square feet floor area was dismantled in connection with this work and re-erected on a new site. A new storage godown of 11,250 square feet in area was built and concrete hardstandings for open storage were increased by 51,000 square feet. Considerable extensions to oil bunkering facilities were put in hand to provide for the rapid discharge of tankers independently of the existing bunkering system. This was developed to provide oil bunkers for vessels at five berths in the Empire Dock. The new roller slipway at the west end of Chermin Wharf was put into commission, a guide jetty was constructed and a new dockyard boundary fence was erected.

Improvements to the access and storage area of the Main Wharf of Keppel Harbour Dockyard continued throughout the year. The Board's housing estates at Morse Road, Telok Blangah Road and Fir Tree Hill were connected to the City sewerage system and the private sewerage disposal system behind Chermin Wharf was demolished. Thirty-six self-contained flats in three blocks were

built for the Board's Police personnel in Low Hill Road. Following agreement with the City's planning authority on the future of the Tanjong Pagar area, work began on the erection of 160 self-contained flats for artisans.

The Harbour Board Electrical Department purchased and distributed over its system 11,378,830 B.O.T. units, exceeding the previous record by 1.4 per cent. The Board's power station was maintained in a state of readiness but no electricity was generated. The extension to Dock No. 1 substation at Keppel Harbour was completed and three new substations were built at the Main Wharf Keppel Harbour substation. The electrical installation of the Board's new harbour tug *Tunda* was completed, and the *Tunda* and *Gripper* were fitted with VHP radio telephones. The latter was also fitted with new radio equipment meeting the latest requirements.

Private Shipyards

Apart from the major shipbuilding and repair facilities at H.M. Dockyard and the Singapore Harbour Board's dockyard and slips which cater primarily for the large ocean going vessels, there are 23 private firms engaged in shipbuilding and repair work. These firms undertake work on steel and wood vessels ranging from about 150 feet in length downwards. Most of the work carried out is routine slipping and repair after survey on local vessels trading with neighbouring countries.

CIVIL AVIATION

The geographical position of Singapore is no less favourable for airline operation than for shipping services. Air services on the major international routes continued to be operated by the British Overseas Airways Corporation and Qantas Empire Airways between the United Kingdom and Australia, by Royal Dutch Airlines between Europe and Indonesia, and by Pan-American Airways between Singapore and the United States via the Philippines. Airlines based in Hong Kong, India, Burma, Indonesia and Thailand maintained regular services to Singapore, whilst Malayan Airways Limited, a Singapore registered company, maintained its accident free record in another successful year of operation.

Following a decision at the Commissioner-General's Conference held in Singapore in March 1955, the Department of Civil Aviation ceased to be Pan-Malayan with effect from 1st May, and the title

of Director-General of Civil Aviation, Malaya/Borneo Region, became Director-General and Civil Aviation, Singapore. In this capacity the present holder of the post continued to act as Director of Civil Aviation to the Governments of North Borneo and Sarawak, until a local director was appointed in September, from which date the Director-General became chief technical aviation adviser to the Borneo territories.

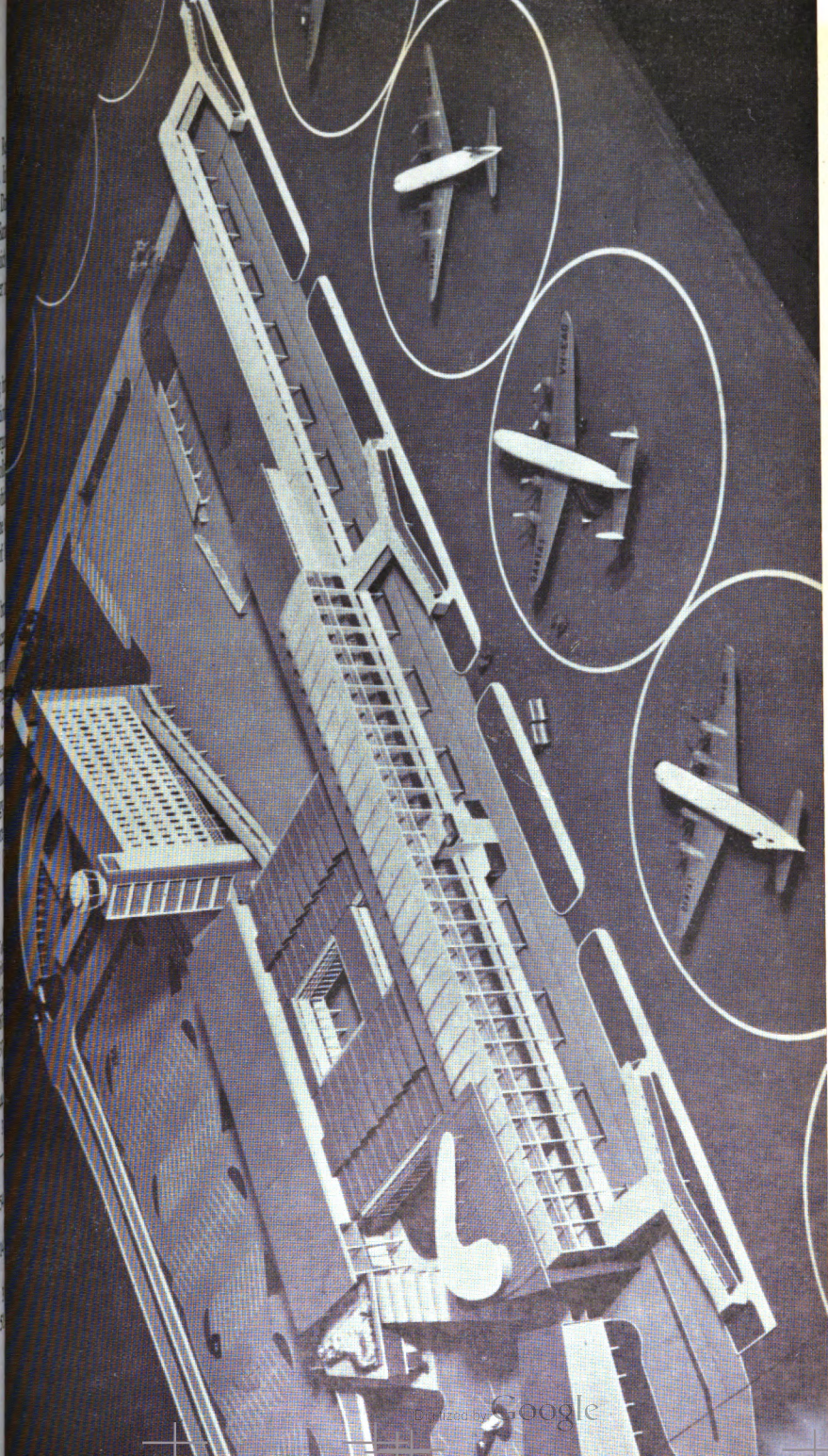
AIRCRAFT AND AIR-CREWS

The registration of aircraft is undertaken by the licensing branch of the Department of Civil Aviation. The aircraft nationality markings allocated by the International Civil Aviation Organisation to the Colony are the letters VR. These letters are followed by a hyphen and three identification letters, the first of which is 'S' denoting that the aircraft is registered in Singapore. The total number of aircraft registered in the Colony at the end of 1955 was 24.

In addition to the registration of aircraft the licensing branch is responsible for the issue and renewal of all air-crew licences. To assess the technical knowledge of applicants for the various grades of air-crew licences examinations are conducted at regular intervals. Examinations for private pilots and for subjects covering air legislation for professional pilots are set and marked by the licensing branch. Examinations for professional pilots (including such subjects as navigation, flight planning, meteorology, instruments and navigational radio aids) are taken in Singapore but prepared and marked by the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in London.

AIR-CREW LICENSING IN 1955

		<i>Initial Issues</i>	<i>Renewals</i>	<i>Total Registered</i>
Student Pilot's Licence	...	20	1	112
Private Pilot's Licence	...	15	13	83
Commercial Pilot's Licence	...	6	32	37
Senior Commercial Pilot's Licence	...	2	8	8
Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	...	4	70	44
Flight Navigator's Licence	...	—	—	3
Flight Engineer's Licence	...	—	—	—
General Flight Radiotelephony Operator's Licence	...	1	—	54
Flight Radiotelephony Operator's Licence (Restricted)	...	10	—	14
1st Class Flight Radiotelegraphy Operator's Licence	...	—	—	3
Certificate of Registration	...	3	—	51



Model of the Singapore Airport buildings at Paya Lebar. The Airport, with temporary buildings, was opened by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd in August 1955

SINGAPORE'S PEOPLES AND
THEIR PROFESSIONS ARE MANY
AND VARIED. PICTURES SHOW
TWO INTERESTING CHARAC-
TERS:

Right—A Sikh watchman



Below—A Chinese junkman

C. A. Gibson-Hill



AERODROMES

There are one civil and four military aerodromes on Singapore Island. Because of the proximity of airstrips and the density of traffic in the airspaces over the Island, a high degree of co-operation of civil and military Air Traffic is necessary and is maintained by means of a Joint Air Traffic Control Centre located at the Civil Airport.

Singapore Airport

The new Singapore Airport at Paya Lebar was opened by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on 20th August, 1955, and the former civil airport at Kallang closed permanently to traffic on the following day. With the co-operation of the very large number of commercial, civil and military interests concerned, the transfer was effected with remarkable smoothness, and without interruption to scheduled services.

Singapore Airport, as it is, is only the first stage of a long term plan of continuous development. The single runway, 8,000 feet long and 200 feet wide, with its associated taxi tracks and aprons, conforms to the internationally recognised standards for a Class B3 Airport contained in the September 1953 Edition of Annex 14 to the International Convention for Civil Aviation. The runway is aligned with the direction of prevailing winds (which are north-easterly and south-westerly at different seasons of the year) and is equipped with completely up-to-date approach and runway lighting, including high intensity approach lights. When the planned equipment of radio navigational aids has been completed, and surveillance radar has been added, the runway should be useable in almost any weather conditions by the largest civil aircraft now flying or likely to fly for many years to come.

If in the future an increase in runway length becomes necessary, the present 8,000-foot runway can be extended without great difficulty to 10,000 feet, and land is available for subsidiary runways if future increases in traffic density demand them. The existing runway is capable of handling at least five times the present number of aircraft movements, and extensions during the next few years are more likely to be in buildings and aprons than additional runways.

The interim terminal building now in use will revert to its originally planned use as a hangar and workshop area as soon as the permanent terminal building (for which the design is now nearly complete) has been erected.

The overall traffic trend for the period under review showed an encouraging increase over last year's figures. This is largely attributable to the transfer to the new airport, in that aircraft hitherto weight-restricted from utilising Kallang, are now operating scheduled services through Singapore Airport. Comparative figures are shown in the following tables:—

AIRPORT PASSENGER, MAIL AND FREIGHT STATISTICS

			1954	1955	% Increase
<i>Aircraft</i>					
Arrivals	...	...	5,584	5,736	2.72
Departures	...	...	5,580	5,737	2.81
<i>Passengers</i>					
Arrivals	...	...	62,665	82,211	31.19
Departures	...	...	60,834	77,737	27.79
Transit	...	...	19,937	23,075	15.74
<i>Freight</i>					
			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	
Arrivals	...	...	945	1,186	25.5
Departures	...	...	3,385	3,986	17.75
<i>Mail</i>					
Arrivals	...	...	452	497	9.96
Departures	...	...	464	509	9.70

Airport Fire Service

The Airport Fire Service is equipped with every modern appliance from power saws to foam producing monitors, the capacity of which exceeds that recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation for an airport of this designation. The fire service is housed in what is probably the most up-to-date and well equipped station in the Colonial territories.

A comprehensive and continuous training programme ensures that the efficiency of fire-service personnel is maintained at a very high standard.

AIR SAFETY

The safety of aircraft flying in the Singapore Flight Information Region (an area of approximately three quarters of a million square miles) is guarded by the Joint Air Traffic Control Centre, located at Singapore Airport.

The Centre, which co-ordinates air traffic movements from the five aerodromes on Singapore Island, provides an excellent example

of the way in which conflicting service and civil airspace requirements can be reconciled with minimum inconvenience in a congested terminal area. This has been achieved largely as a result of the implementation of a system of Advisory Routes and Airways Control defined by medium frequency non-directional beacons located in Southern Johore and St. John's Island.

The Airport is equipped with automatic VHF/DF* and in 1956 it is intended to add a Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Range giving a track guide down the runway, as well as a large number of track guides radiating from St. John's Island on which a 3 kilowatt long-range beacon is also located. It is hoped to introduce Surveillance Radar during 1956 or early in 1957.

Communications and Weather Services

Meteorological information is supplied by the Malayan Meteorological Service (see page 202) which maintained a forecast office at Singapore Airport, Paya Lebar, with effect from 21st August, 1954; hitherto the office was at Kallang Airport. Weather information is obtained from meteorological stations covering an area extending from Japan to Aden and from South Korea to Central Australia. Weather reports and forecasts are supplied in accordance with international procedures to aircraft operating on routes within or passing through the Flight Information Region. A continuous watch is maintained on weather conditions on all routes in this region and broadcasts of meteorological information to aircraft are maintained at half hourly intervals throughout the 24 hours.

The radio-telegraph and radio-telephone facilities for these services and for communications to and from aircraft in flight are provided by the Telecommunications Department. Radio Beacon Navigational Aids, including distance measuring and direction finding facilities, are also provided. In addition, there are radio-telegraph and radio-teletype circuits in the Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications Network communicating to India, Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, Indochina, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Labuan, Borneo, Sarawak, Cocos Islands, Australia and the Republic of Indonesia for air traffic control and airline organisations. These radio circuits handled a total of 372,000 messages during 1955 representing an increase of 11 per cent over the 1954 figures. The removal of all aeronautical telecommunications equipment in the Kallang Airport and its installation in the new Singapore Airport was effected overnight without interruption of vital services.

* Very High Frequency radio Direction Finder.

Survey of Aircraft

The office of the Surveyor-in-Charge, Air Registration Board, Singapore, performs functions similar to those which the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation has delegated to the Board in England, including the inspection of aircraft for airworthiness and the issue and renewal of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers licences.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

The Malayan Meteorological Service is financed jointly by the Governments of the Colony and the Federation and has its headquarters in Singapore. It maintains ten first order meteorological stations in the Federation and one first order meteorological station and a forecast office in Singapore; there is in addition a meteorological station maintained by the Phosphate Company on Christmas Island. The Department of Telecommunications provides radio reception and broadcast services for the collection and interchange of weather information and other meteorological services in South-East Asia and Australia. A total of approximately 488,000 messages were handled during 1955. See also the sections on Marine Safety and on Air Safety on pages 187 and 200.

METEOROLOGICAL RESEARCH

Research into the upper atmosphere in low latitudes was carried out at the Paya Lebar upper air experimental station. This research was financed by funds from a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme (see Chapter IV) and by the Governments of the Malaya/Borneo territories. Upper winds were determined twice daily throughout the year, and pressure, temperatures and humidities once daily up to 3rd November, 1955, to heights well above the tropopause (i.e. 54,000 feet approximately by using radar techniques for tracking hydrogen filled balloons carrying meteorological instruments).

RAILWAYS

The main line of the Malayan Railway runs from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Prai (for Penang) for a distance of 488 miles, of which approximately 16 miles are within the Colony of Singapore. From Gemas, 137 miles north of Singapore, a line branches off to Tumpat (Kelantan) and Sungie Golok (on the Thailand

border). This line is 328 miles long and runs via Kuala Lipis, Kuala Krai and Palekbang (for Kota Bharu) through the States of Pahang and Kelantan. The railway enters the Federation of Malaya by the Johore Causeway.

The Singapore terminus is at Keppel Road. There is a modern passenger station with an up-to-date hotel, and a goods depôt with adequate covered and open space for dealing with the considerable tonnage of freight to and from the Federation. A branch line links the Malayan Railway with the Singapore Harbour Board's lines serving wharves and godowns and latex and palm oil installations in the port area.

Day and night trains connect Singapore with Kuala Lumpur with connections to Ipoh, Penang and Bangkok (Thailand). Through tickets to Thailand can be obtained at Singapore. There is also a twice weekly through service between Singapore and Kota Bharu (Kelantan). Sleeping accommodation, first and second class, is available on night mail trains, and buffet cars run on all the principal trains. Air-conditioned first class accommodation is available in buffet cars of the main day trains and sleeping coaches of the main night trains.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC

Passenger traffic and goods traffic from Singapore increased considerably during the year as the following figures show:—

			1953	1954	1955
<i>Passengers entraining at Singapore for Federation destinations:</i>					
1st Class	...	...	10,040	11,245	13,851
2nd Class	...	...	59,181	68,299	82,921
3rd Class	...	...	100,266	107,675	135,629
<i>Goods:</i>					
Forwarded from Singapore to Federation (tons)	...	...	188,210	193,096	218,122
Received in Singapore from Federation (tons)	...	...	210,981	305,755	262,313

At the invitation of the Government, the Malayan Railway instituted an emergency suburban service between Johore Bahru and Singapore Railway Station during the period when all Singapore buses were off the road. An emergency lorry service was arranged to enable passengers to travel to and from the Railway Station, Collyer Quay and Waterloo Street, and a further lorry service

served the area between Bukit Timah Station and Bukit Panjang. The service, which included a special train from Johore Bahru in the early morning and a special train leaving Singapore at 5 o'clock in the evening, stopped at five places on Singapore Island. The service was started on the 28th November and discontinued on the 24th of December, in view of the small number of persons using it. The lack of response is attributable in the main to the fact that the area through which the railway runs is not yet a residential one.

ROADS

The new 3½-mile coast road at Changi, renamed Nicoll Drive in honour of the former Governor, Sir John Nicoll, was completed in the first quarter of the year. Completion of the section of the road at Changi Point was hampered by the presence of squatter dwellings, but considerable progress had nevertheless been made. Adequate parking facilities had been provided for picnickers at Changi Point. Other major road projects included the Tampenis Road alignment which was completed in the middle of the year despite abnormally wet weather early in the year, and the new Upper Thomson Road carriageway which was opened to traffic on 10th October. With the exception of the Bukit Timah Village Bypass section and a small section in Bukit Panjang Village, the Bukit Timah Dual Carriageway project had virtually been completed as far as the junction at Mandai Road (12½ milestone) and the dual carriageway had come into operation. In the Bukit Panjang section an amended layout was prepared to meet the requirements of the local District Committee, and this has now been implemented. In addition, site investigations were carried out on six sites between Newton Circus and the Clementi Road junction for cross-over link bridges over the canal. All heavy earthworks in connection with these road projects were carried out departmentally.

VEHICLES

Motor vehicles are registered under the Road Traffic Ordinance in the Registrar of Vehicles' Department of the Singapore City Council. Fees for initial registration and half-yearly licence fees are paid to City Council revenue except for the sum which is contributed to the Rural Board to offset the cost of road maintenance.

VEHICLES REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

		<i>Total vehicles registered on 31-12-54</i>	<i>Vehicles newly registered in 1955</i>	<i>Total vehicles registered on 31-12-55</i>
Buses, taxis and commercial passenger vehicles	...	2,580	1,019	2,923
Goods vehicles	...	9,525	862	9,947
Private cars	...	34,693	7,157	40,912
Motor cycles	...	7,356	733	8,010
Trishas	...	4,064	—	3,828
Tricycles	...	6,955	45	6,998
Bicycles	...	178,708	21,405	199,766
Trailers	...	93	—	93
Others	...	2,113	10	2,174

The total revenue collected was \$9,659,141 and the cost of collection \$983,243. The latter figure includes the cost of an Inspectorate which investigates and prosecutes offences under the rules and by-laws for the licensing and control of vehicles and their drivers, and examines all vehicles for their roadworthiness.

At the beginning of the year there were 822 buses and 50 trolley buses with a combined seating and standing capacity of 38,772. By the end of the year these figures had increased to 871 buses and 50 trolley buses with a combined seating and standing capacity of 41,336. Omnibus services are operated by one public and 13 private bus companies. The increase in vehicles was not enough to cope with the increasing passenger demand and overcrowding continued, in spite of the fact that the new buses being registered have more seats than the old ones which they are replacing. No new bus services were initiated during the year, but there were 14 extensions and deviations to existing routes.

The number of taxis was limited to 1,560 and all of them are fitted with taximeters. During the year the City Council adopted a policy of delimiting the number. The number of registered trishas continued to decrease in accordance with the policy of the City Council. In 1948 the number was 9,041 and by the end of 1955 the total was only 3,809. The number of trisha riders decreased from 4,547 to 4,301 but by a decision of the Council the number may now be increased again to 5,000 in order to alleviate any unemployment which may exist among riders.

On the 3rd of October a Commission of Inquiry was appointed to examine the public passenger transport system of Singapore and its future development. The Chairman was Mr. L. C. Hawkins, a member of the London Transport Executive, and the work of the Commission was nearing completion at the end of the year.

There were several strikes and one lock-out in the passenger transport industry during the course of the year, and a Court of Inquiry into the dispute between the Singapore Traction Company and its Employees' Union was appointed in December, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Tan Ah Tah. During these stoppages the activities of so-called 'pirate' taxis greatly increased. These vehicles are licensed only as private cars and are not covered by insurance for the carriage of fare-paying passengers. More effective means of dealing with this illegality were under consideration at the end of the year. On the 15th of June, a service of hired lorries to transport school children during a strike of all transport workers was inaugurated by the Government and organised by the Registrar of Vehicles and his staff. The service was extended to workers and other members of the public the next day and continued for four days in all. After the stoppage of work in the Singapore Traction Company's undertaking, an emergency lorry service for school children was started on the 27th of September and continued until the Christmas holidays. During this period, more than 15,000 children were carried each day, without accident, in an average of 106 lorries a day. This is a great tribute to the care and skill of the drivers, and of the Police and later the teachers who escorted the vehicles.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

There was a steady rise in accident figures throughout the year, and the total number increased from 17,149 in 1954 to 20,016. Comparative figures are as follows:—

		1953	1954	1955
Vehicles* registered:				
mechanically propelled ...	...	50,475	54,061	61,792
non-mechanically propelled	...	176,890	191,840	212,859
Traffic accidents reported	...	16,359	17,149	20,016
Persons injured	...	3,036	3,259	3,138
Persons killed	...	133	105	133

* Excluding vehicles of H.M. Forces.

It is clear that the increase in the number of vehicles on the road combined with the growth of population has some relations to the higher accident rate. Expressed in percentages the increase in mechanically propelled vehicles was 14.2, in non-mechanically propelled vehicles 10.9, while the increase in accidents amounted to 16.8. The casualty figure on the other hand decreased by 2.9 per cent. These changes are probably accounted for by the fact that the increased number of vehicles resulted in slower travel, with more minor accidents and fewer cases of injury. The increasing problem of traffic congestion is a serious one to which there is no single or easy solution.

An amendment was made to the Road Traffic Ordinance in November to provide that minor accidents need not be reported to the Police, so long as the parties involved exchange names and addresses, together with details of the vehicles' registration numbers. This change is slowly resulting in a decrease in the number of accidents reported to the Police.

With the increase in the number of vehicles registered and the erection of new offices and buildings in the central City area, the problem of parked cars became more acute. It is estimated that in some cases road capacity was reduced by a half through the presence of parked vehicles. The provision of further car parks was in the planning stage, but it cannot be accepted as a defence to a parking or obstruction charge that no other place was available.

In the control of traffic, the Traffic Branch of the Police Force depends not only upon its routine section which provides the men for point duty and beat duty, but also on its Mobile Squad of 57 motor-cycles and their riders. This branch would have been stronger if all the authorised posts could have been filled, but the training of motor-cyclists to the standard required for Mobile Police Officers with specialist knowledge of all traffic offences takes time. Plans were drawn up for improving the strength and efficiency of the Mobile Squad during 1956.

With the passing of the School Crossing Patrols Ordinance in August 1955, provision was made for the control of traffic at places where children cross roads on their way to and from school by persons other than police officers. This has not only safeguarded the children but allowed the Police to use their manpower for other important traffic duties. By the end of the year a total of 35 School Crossing Patrols had been instituted. The Patrols are men or women working part-time for a small daily wage, and the number will be increased as soon as suitable applicants can be found.

The Safety First Council organised a 'Safety First' exhibition during the last ten days of June. The success of the exhibition is shown by the attendance which amounted to over 26,000 people. Among them were several thousands children from 150 Singapore schools.

Driving Licences

In November the age limit for driving vehicles up to 2½ tons was lowered from 19 to 17, and for riding motor-cycles from 17 to 16. This led to the receipt of 1,170 applications from people under the age of 19. During the year the driving licence test was amended to bring it more into line with the procedure followed in the United Kingdom. Although the Singapore test is considered to be as severe as that in the United Kingdom, the old procedure was somewhat cumbersome.

DRIVING LICENCES

	1954	1955
Tests for New Applicants	16,646	17,586
Licences Issued	12,104	12,595
Licences Renewed	75,720	60,499
Provisional Licences Issued	12,200	17,987
Provisional Licences Renewed	32,859	13,585
Duplicate Licences Issued	2,959	3,043
Failures in Driving Tests	7,620	8,292
Singapore Traction Company Licences Issued	216	121
Singapore Traction Company Licences Renewed	902	789
Licences Endorsed	91	68
Revenue	\$600,174	\$650,101

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The geographical position of Singapore and its importance as one of the largest trading centres in Asia make it a focal point for international radio and submarine cable links. The Telecommunications Services in Singapore other than the local telephone system are provided by the Pan-Malayan Department of Telecommunications under the local control of the Director of Telecommunications with a staff of 669. The estimated revenue for 1955 was \$3.9 millions and the estimated expenditure, exclusive of capital and development projects, \$3.6 millions.

TELEPHONES

The local telephone system in Singapore is under the management of a public corporation known as the Singapore Telephone Board which took over the system from the Oriental Telephone & Electric Company, Limited, on 1st January, 1955.

It is an automatic dialling system. The main exchange is situated in the heart of the City with six smaller satellite exchanges zoned in various parts of the Island. The number of exchange lines in service at the end of 1955 was approximately 22,500 with 15,000 extension lines, and the daily average number of calls reached half a million. During 1955 there was a nett increase of 2,000 lines connected to the system.

One of the first acts of the Board was to conduct an island survey to determine how to reduce the waiting list of some 6,000 subscribers and to plan for the extension of the telephone service in accordance with the growth of the Colony. The services of an expert from the United Kingdom were obtained and a five-year programme was evolved. The programme includes the construction of four new telephone exchanges with a total capacity of 30,400/73,000 lines and extensions to four existing exchanges. A complementary cable distribution scheme to serve the new exchanges is being developed and pipe lines to carry cables to many districts have been laid. Automatic equipment for these exchanges is on order and the first delivery is expected in October 1956.

Overland telephone communication between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya is effected by trunk telephone circuits provided and maintained by the Department of Telecommunications. The majority of these 98 circuits are now by V.H.F. radio and the remainder are carried by land line. Relays of material for broadcast, to and from the Federation, using special high quality circuits in the same V.H.F. system, are provided for the Department of Broadcasting. The number of trunk calls between Singapore and the Federation handled during the year was 1,900,000. The Department's radiotelephone services have been further extended, and telephone calls can now be connected to almost all parts of the world. The total number of these calls handled during 1955 was 17,700 against 14,800 in 1954 and 11,600 in 1953.

TELEGRAPHS

Public telegraph services between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya and services to Thailand, Sarawak, Brunei and Christmas Island are provided by the department. Teleprinters are used

for the operation of the Malayan internal circuits and radio-telegraphy for the external extended services. Approximately 1.3 million telegrams were handled in 1955 against 1.02 millions in 1954. Since the introduction of the public teleprinter service seven years ago, there has been a steady increase in its use. Commercial houses in Singapore with branches, agencies and allied concerns in the main towns in the Federation of Malaya, and Press organisations, are the chief subscribers. Teleprinters are also rented out to the Singapore Police and other Government Departments. At the end of 1955 a total of 90 teleprinters, representing revenue amounting to \$88,200, were on hire; in 1954 there were only 67.

The main Overseas Public Telegraph Services to and from Singapore are handled by Cable and Wireless Limited, whose submarine cables provide direct duplex circuits with the United Kingdom, India, Australia, Ceylon, South Africa, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Borneo. The 24-hour communication channels thus provided are supplemented by high-speed radio point-to-point services, using automatic equipment similar to that of the cable circuits, to facilitate integration of the two systems. The Company also provides a radio facsimile service for transmission and reception of photographs and the similar material.

The number of overseas telegrams handled by Cable and Wireless Limited, to and from the Colony of Singapore only, up to the end of November 1955, was 593,285 inwards and 649,447 outwards, making a total of well over 1½ millions messages for 1955 if the anticipated December total is included. Corresponding figures to and from Telecommunications Department Telegraph Office are 31,298 inwards and 105,042 outwards, making an estimate total for the whole 1955 of about 150,000. Over the teleprinter circuit to Kuala Lumpur, Federation of Malaya, 62,333 telegrams were handled inwards and 75,740 outwards, with a probable total of 150,000 for the whole year. In addition to this grand total of well over 1½ million messages, the Cable and Wireless office in Singapore handled an even greater volume of international telegraph traffic in transit between other points of the Company's worldwide network.

Leased commercial radio teletype circuits were established during the course of the year and are operating satisfactorily. Work has been commenced on the building of an entirely new, air-conditioned Instrument Room, supplied with the latest apparatus as designed in the Company's Research Department in London. When

completed, it is expected that delays in handling local and transit traffic will be materially reduced. A teleprinter circuit has been brought into operation between the Telecommunications Department, Singapore, and Cable and Wireless office, to replace the slower system of transfer by courier service. By co-operation between the Telecommunications Department and the Company, arrangements have been made for the introduction in the near future of two channels to Kuala Lumpur Teleprinter Switching Exchange, in addition to the existing point-to-point circuit. By this means it is hoped further to speed up handling in both directions of the Federation's overseas telegrams.

The Company's cable dépôt and factory at Keppel Harbour has been engaged throughout the year in meeting the stock cable needs of the Singapore-based cable repair ships *Stanley-Angwin* and *Retriever* in continuing the extensive post-war programme of submarine cable renewals in this area.

RADIO

The Singapore Radio Coast Station, operated by the Telecommunications Department, provides public radio-telegraph and radio-telephone services for communications with ships at sea and aircraft (see the section on Marine Safety and Air Safety on pages 187 and 200). Under the International Radio Regulations, radio watches are maintained for the interception of radio distress signals. During the year 53,800 messages comprising private and commercial radio telegrams, including ship letter telegrams, were handled by this station. The total traffic load for 1955 represented an increase of 13.5 per cent over the number of messages handled in 1954. There is also a marine radio-telephone service for communication with coastal vessels operating in Malayan waters. Special V.H.F. radio-telephone services are provided for the City Water Department, the Master Attendant, the Customs and Excise Department, the Immigration Department, the Auxiliary Fire Services, the Rural Board and the Government Health Department. Twenty-seven two-way V.H.F. equipments were added to the V.H.F. network during the year making a total of 88 mobile land stations, mobile marine stations and land substations linked through three main stations sited on Mount Faber. Increased radio transmission and reception facilities were rented out on a time basis to Press organisations for the broadcast and reception of news.

POSTAL SERVICES

The Postal Services Department in the Colony is under the local control of a Director of Posts, and is part of a Pan-Malayan postal organisation headed by the Postmaster-General, Malaya, with its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur in the Federation of Malaya. The geographical position of Singapore, half-way between India and China, coupled with its excellent air and shipping facilities, makes it a natural postal distribution centre for the neighbouring countries of Sarawak, Brunei, North Borneo, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. Very large quantities of mail addressed to or received from these territories, are handled daily by the Singapore Post Office. The bulk of the air and surface mail to and from the Federation of Malaya passes through Singapore.

Social and economic progress was reflected in an increase of work at Post Offices. Apart from its fundamental work in connection with the collection, transportation and delivery of mails of all kinds, the Post Office operates other services, notably the Post Office Savings Bank and the Money Order and Postal Order Services. To the services which it performs on behalf of other Government departments have been added those of distributing information, collecting contributions and making payments in connection with the Singapore Central Provident Fund.

The Post Office in Singapore caters for the mail of a mixed population of 1½ million persons made up of Chinese, Malays, Europeans, Indians and Pakistanis as well as small numbers of many other races, all using their own scripts. It deals also with all mail posted and received by members of the Forces drawn from many parts of the Commonwealth who are stationed in Malaya.

Singapore and the neighbouring islands are divided into 28 numbered postal districts and the use of the correct district number in addressing correspondence results in the speedier handling of mail for delivery. There was continued publicity to encourage the use of the postal district numbering system and the correct addressing of correspondence. Public response is improving, but nearly a million items, bearing incorrect or insufficient addresses, required special treatment during the year.

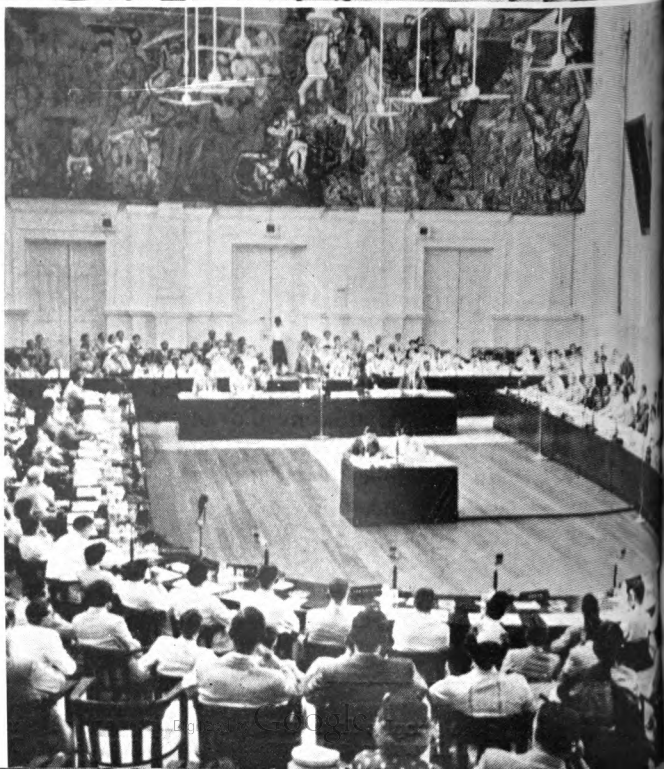
Three postal deliveries are made on weekdays in the central area of the City and two deliveries throughout most of the remainder of the Island. On the basis of periodical statistics it is estimated that more than 88 million items of all classes of correspondence,





Public Relations

*Above—Crowds at a
Trade Exhibition*



*Right—An informal
scene of the Colombo
Plan Conference held
in Singapore in Octo-
ber 1955*

including parcels, were dealt with in 1955 compared with 85 million items in 1954. While increases were noted in all classes of correspondence, this upward trend was particularly noticeable in the insured letter section where 4,771 items were dealt with, 634 per cent more than in 1954. Parcel traffic increased by 24 per cent in 1955. The number of registered items handled showed an increase of 6.6 per cent over 1954. Letter traffic with 33,008,120 items also showed an increase of 3.8 per cent.

The habit of sending greeting cards for Christmas, Chinese New Year, Malay and Indian festivals has grown considerably during the past few years. Special arrangements often had to be made in advance to cope with these postings, and the public helped by responding to appeals to post early.

For the first time, the Singapore Post Office delivered one electoral communication, free of postage, for each candidate in the Singapore elections. Altogether 412,110 electoral communications were posted by candidates. In addition 298,244 election polling cards were posted to voters by the Returning Officer. Handling of these items revealed an urgent need for the proper numbering of houses in the rural areas and the first steps to deal with this problem were taken in co-operation with the authorities concerned.

At the end of 1955 full postal facilities for mail, money order, savings bank and other classes of business were afforded at 29 Post Offices in the Colony, including the General Post Office in Fullerton Building, and the Post Office at Christmas Island. New Post Offices of an attractive and modern design were opened during the year at the Paya Lebar Airport and at Bukit Panjang. The new Bukit Panjang Post Office on Choa Chu Kang Road, replaces the old Bukit Panjang Post Office on Bukit Timah Road, which was demolished in connection with road-widening schemes. Work continued on alterations and extensions to the existing Queen Street and Geylang Post Offices. Modern public counters have been installed at both these offices and greatly improved accommodation provided for sorting operations and for delivery postmen.

Restricted postal facilities were provided at six Postal Agencies, including one at Pulau Bukom and another at Pulau Tekong. In addition to the provision of postal facilities at Post Offices and Postal Agencies a number of Stamp Vendors Licences were issued. There were 177 posting boxes in use at the end of the year, 14 more than in 1954. Two mail vans have been equipped as Mobile Post Offices, which call once or twice a week at villages at which postal facilities cannot at present be provided.

The first complete series of pictorial stamps consisting of 15 denominations was issued in the Colony on 4th September. There was a great demand from philatelists for these attractive stamps which depict the diversity and characteristics of the trade of this great seaport and airport, by showing the different types of craft trading to and from the Colony. Special arrangements were made to enable the thousands of persons wishing to purchase the stamps on the first day of issue to be served without delay. The new series of stamps has been accorded high praise in a large number of countries.

In view of the rapidly expanding population and the development of new housing estates and satellite towns, constant attention must be given to the planning and siting of new Post Office buildings and the extension or alteration of existing Post Offices, if public demand for increased postal facilities is to be met. A Planning and Development Branch was started in 1955 to deal exclusively with this very important work. Postal surveys were carried out during the year and a Five-Year Plan to meet foreseeable development from 1956-60 has been prepared.

The Postal Services Joint Committee held four meetings during the year and discussions were conducted in an atmosphere of understanding and harmony which resulted in a large measure of accord being reached on the many problems discussed. Regular classes for new entrants were started in the enlarged Post Office Training School, and efforts are being made to continue and further extend the training facilities offered.

The cash turnover of the Singapore Post Office during 1955 was \$196,535,291.

Post Office Savings Bank operations are described in Chapter V.

FOREIGN MAILS

During 1955 existing air mail schedules were maintained and several new services were introduced resulting in an increase in the frequency of despatches to foreign destinations. There is a small transit mail office at the new Airport to facilitate the despatch and receipt of mails. Plans have been prepared for a well-equipped Sorting Office at Paya Lebar Airport. When this Office is functioning sorting of all inward and outward air mails will be done at the Airport. This will accelerate deliveries, permit of later posting times to connect with outgoing aircraft, and will enable Singapore to handle expeditiously large quantities of transit airmails for the whole of South-East Asia.

In spite of the continued increase in airmail facilities and the widespread public use of airmail services for all classes of correspondence there was also an increase in the amount of postal traffic carried by sea, rail and road. Careful organisation of the work at the docks and in the main sorting office in the General Post Office and in the smaller branch Post Offices resulted in the rapid handling and delivery of large surface mails throughout the year. On 13th December, 1955 5,185 bags of mail were unloaded from a vessel and all the items for delivery in the Colony were delivered in record time. On 21st December, 1955 a similar record was achieved when 2,468 bags of parcels in a total of 3,232 bags were unloaded from a ship and delivered within 48 hours.

XVI

INFORMATION SERVICES, PRESS, BROADCASTING, FILMS

INFORMATION SERVICES

THE TWO main tasks of the Public Relations Department were to explain and emphasise to the people of Singapore the extent and importance of the far-reaching changes made in the constitution, and to promote and publicise the policies of the newly appointed Ministers.

The first task was necessary because the registration of electors had been based on the counterfoils of Identity Cards and required no action or interest by the potential voter. There had therefore been no preliminary campaign to persuade him to register, and for that purpose to explain the importance and the power of the vote. At the election stage it became doubly necessary to explain to him why he should vote, and in what manner he could vote. With the increase of the electorate from 75,000 to 300,000 this was a major task to be carried out in four languages with four different alphabets.

The task of planning the publicity details of the campaign was also undertaken. Press advertising of candidates in all constituencies, their distinguishing emblems, and the date and time of voting was arranged in all newspapers. There were 25 campaign speeches over Radio Malaya from the five parties and 48 campaign announcements over Radio and Rediffusion. 41,000 posters and 94,000 leaflets, pamphlets and handbills were printed and three eye-catching hoardings were temporarily installed at strategic points on the Island to command the attention of the potential electorate. Special cinema slides, shown in 26 cinemas, 50,000 envelope stickers and a specially constructed neon sign carrying the slogan 'The Vote is Secret' in four languages on a Public Address van were among the more novel media utilised.

After the election when Ministers had taken office new policies and new intensity of activity, both legislative and administrative, required more publicity. It was necessary to emphasise the range, volume and intensity of work of the Ministers to establish in the public mind the fact, the extent and the significance of the change in the constitution. Moreover the intensity of political argument with the challenge to the new Ministry in the Hock Lee riots, in the political strikes of June, and in the heated agitation against the public security legislation during its passage through the Assembly, added to the work. There was, too, an increase in overseas work. With the new constitution and with the problems which it had to face, there was increased interest in Singapore from overseas. This showed itself in the increased number of overseas correspondents posted to Singapore; and it brought increased demands from overseas for material to be supplied from the office. This was particularly so from London, and it was necessary to increase the supply of material to the Information Officer in Malaya House in London, and the importance of this post was clearly demonstrated. It was part of the policy of the Marshall Government to establish closer relationships with Singapore's Asian neighbours. This required special publicity during the Chief Minister's visit to Indonesia, Ceylon and India, on which the Public Relations Officer accompanied him, and later to Pakistan. The holding of the Colombo Plan Conference in Singapore in October added to the international interest. The Public Relations Officer acted as Press Officer to the Conference, and the full facilities of the office were engaged on this work.

The administration of the Departments was included in the portfolio of the Chief Secretary, but the Public Relations Officer was naturally in constant and direct touch with the Chief Minister as leader and spokesman of the Government. To strengthen this essential link, a Press Liaison Officer was appointed to the Department's staff and posted to the Chief Minister's Office for direct assistance to him in his contacts with the Press. Through other members of the staff similar direct links were maintained with other Ministries.

PRESS

OVERSEAS PRESS REPRESENTATION

As an international news centre Singapore has its own well-established press, good international and internal telecommunications links and good travel communications with the rest of South-East Asia. As a diplomatic and strategic centre in South-East Asia,

it has the offices of the Commissioner-General for South-East Asia, the headquarters of the three armed services and many foreign consular posts. There was a greater number of resident and visiting correspondents and of visiting journalists during 1955 than during any previous year. The number of overseas correspondents in 1955 was 21.

The following agencies have permanent representatives in Singapore: Reuters, Australian Associated Press, United Press, Associated Press (U.S.A.), Agence France Presse, the Central News Agency of China and the Pan-Asia News Agency. Among the papers with regular full-time representatives have been the *Times*, the *Manchester Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Observer*, the *Sunday Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Time-Life*, and the *Asahi Shimbun* (Tokyo). The British Broadcasting Corporation, the National Broadcasting Corporation of America, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the Columbia Broadcasting System of New York also had permanent representatives.

Singapore has 13 major papers published in English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil and Malayalam and their total circulation increased during the year. There are also about 300 journals and magazines in all languages. The Singapore Union of Journalists has held regular meetings during the year and a branch of the Institute of Journalists has been formed. The number of Press Identity Cards issued up to the end of the year was 411.

Two thousand five hundred and fifteen Press statements were issued; this was 195 more than the highest number of any other previous year. Twenty-one Press conferences were held. A total of 34,028 photographs of various sizes were distributed.

The demand for the *Fortnightly News Summary*, which is a condensation of the daily Press statements issued by the Public Relations Office continued to increase. Three hundred and thirty copies were distributed as against 300 in 1954. Eighty per cent of the recipients of this *Summary* are overseas.

PRESS LEGISLATION

The law of the Colony requires printers and publishers to make a declaration before the Registrar of the Supreme Court concerning the commencement and cessation of publication of every newspaper and to supply three copies of each for official archives. All

newspapers have to be registered under the law. The Undesirable Publications Ordinance, 1938, was amended with effect from 21st October, 1955 to include publications printed unlawfully in the Colony, and to provide for control of imported publications which are considered as being undesirable in the public interest.

NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN 1955

English:

Morning—*Straits Times, Singapore Standard, Indian Daily Mail.*

Afternoon—*Singapore Free Press.*

(The morning papers have Sunday editions).

Chinese:

Morning (including Sundays)—*Nanyang Siang Pau, Sin Chew Jit Poh, Chung Shing Jit Pao.*

Afternoon—*Nanfang Evening Post.*

Malay:

Morning—*Utusan Melayu.*

Sunday—*Utusan Zaman.*

Tamil:

Evening—*Tamil Murasu, Malaya Nanban.*

Malayalam:

Evening—*Kerala Bandhu.*

The largest of these newspapers has a daily circulation of over 80,000. In rural districts the Public Relations Department's own publication *Rural News*, has a circulation of 46,500 in four languages.

PUBLICITY

OVERSEAS PUBLICITY

The Singapore Government's first experience of direct overseas exhibition, planned in Singapore and taken overseas took place when Singapore participated at very short notice in the Cambodian International Exposition held at Phnom-Penh, 15th November to 11th December, 1955. A Joint Singapore/United Kingdom/Federation of Malaya Pavilion for this international trade fair was planned, measuring 40' x 45' and made of Dexion, a prefabricated steel structure. It was transported from Singapore and installed at Phnom-Penh, where the Singapore Stand in the Pavilion, though the smallest among participating countries, was awarded the Gold Medal with a Certificate.

TOURIST PROMOTION

The Singapore Government took a first step forward in tourist promotion by joining the Pacific Association of Travel Agents and the International Union of Travel Organisations. A Working Party representative of all interests concerned was set up to make recommendations on the establishment of a Tourist Board.

PRINTING

The Government Printing Office which printed this book produces all official printed matter and controls Government stationery.

The factory is equipped with modern machinery and uses letterpress (flat bed and rotary), photo-lithography and intaglio methods. A modification of the British Master Printers' costing system is used to cost all processes. Certain publications deemed to be of wide interest are sold on a wholesale basis to booksellers throughout the world. A trade discount is allowed in such transactions.

During the year under review a number of important publications were produced. Among those of particular interest were the *Register of Electors*, a work of 25 volumes totalling 6,300 pages, which was produced in 19 days, the *Economic Development of Malaya*, and the first 5 volumes of the 8-volume *Revised Edition of the Laws*.

BROADCASTING

Broadcasting in Singapore began in 1922, when amateurs were broadcasting from two experimental stations at the same time as the British Broadcasting Company was putting out its first regular transmissions in England. Commercial radio began in 1936 with the British Malayan Broadcasting Corporation and in 1940 the Government of the Straits Settlements set up the Malaya Broadcasting Corporation.

On the 1st April, 1946 the Department of Broadcasting was established jointly by the Governments of Singapore and of the Federation of Malaya and was charged with:—

- (i) providing a full and regular news service;
- (ii) focussing listeners' loyalty and interest upon Malaya;
- (iii) encouraging responsible discussion on matters of public interest;
- (iv) stimulating interest in the work of the Government;
- (v) raising cultural standards;
- (vi) broadcasting to schools; and
- (vii) providing entertainment.

In order to carry out these duties 'Radio Malaya' is organised in five divisions. There are studios, offices and transmitting stations at Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Malacca as well as at Singapore, the headquarters. The Singapore station not only serves Singapore with three medium-wave transmitters but also serves by three short-wave transmitters all those parts of the Federation which are out of reach of the medium-wave transmitters at Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Malacca.

Radio Malaya broadcasts in English, Malay, Tamil and seven Chinese dialects. The number of hours broadcast per week at the end of 1954 was about 230, including news and school broadcasts. These latter consist of four separate and quite distinct services in English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil: Radio Malaya's school broadcasting service is amongst the largest in the British Commonwealth (see Chapter IX).

WIRELESS LICENCES

The number of licence holders in the Colony at the end of 1955 was 49,424, an increase of 3,982 over the previous year's figure. About one person in 25 had listening sets at the end of 1955.

Revenue from various kinds of licence fees, including receipts from Rediffusion subscribers, amounted to \$885,606. A continuous and systematic check is kept to ensure that all licences are renewed on expiry and that all purchasers of new wireless sets obtain licences from the Post Office.

PROGRAMMES

Of the three simultaneous programmes broadcast by Radio Malaya one is devoted almost entirely to English, another to Malay, Tamil and Chinese and a little English, and the third to Chinese. Radio Malaya is on the air almost continuously from 6.30 a.m. until 11 p.m. and is the most comprehensive broadcasting system in South-East Asia.

Programmes in all four languages reflected clearly the momentous political developments in Singapore during the year. The electorate heard the candidates in the Elections for the Legislative Assembly broadcasting their Party platforms and were given the results over the radio a few minutes after they were known. Earlier Radio Malaya carried out energetic campaigns for the revised Electoral Roll and to encourage eligible voters to go to the polls. Numerous radio speakers explained the new constitution to listeners and described how it would affect their lives in practice.

Since the elections and the coming to power of the Labour Front Government, there have been Ministerial broadcasts almost every week. The Chief Minister, Mr. Marshall, appeared frequently before the microphone, not only while in Singapore, but also, by arrangements with All India Radio and the B.B.C., during his journey to London for the Constitutional talks in December. After his return he, in company with two of his fellow Ministers, gave a broadcast press conference over Radio Malaya. This brought to a climax a year of unusually vigorous controversial broadcasting, which included a number of stimulating discussions in the English programme series *Both Sides of the Question* and the Kuala Lumpur-originated *Comment Is Free*.

During times of civil unrest, radio has a big part to play and the Department of Broadcasting was severely tested and not found wanting in the disturbed months of May and June. Listeners to all the language services were kept constantly informed of the strike situation and of the steps taken to maintain public services. On more than one occasion special transmissions were made at short notice to serve and to reassure the public in Singapore.

Political events naturally dominated the year in Radio Malaya's programmes and sometimes they brought about displacement or postponement of entertainment broadcasts. Nevertheless there were other historic radio occasions on which the four language sections came into full play. The opening of the International Airport at Paya Lebar was one and others were the one-hundredth birthday of Henry Ridley, pioneer of Malaya's rubber industry, the Thomas Cup championship, the grant of the Freedom of the City to Mr. Malcolm MacDonald and Sir John Nicoll, the Diamond Jubilee of the Sultan of Johore and the Colombo Plan Ministerial Conference in October. These events were marked by special feature programmes and, where appropriate, by commentaries on the proceedings. Many of these recordings are now preserved in the department's archives, a growing storehouse of material for national history.

The main ingredient of radio programmes is always music and successful efforts were made to raise the standards of both appreciation and performance during the year. Such programmes as *Five in Rhythm* broadcast on the English service, clearly showed how the quality of local playing has risen and the Radio Orchestra's Malay music concerts and the Chinese *Musical New Look* were well received by listeners of all races in Malaya and

have been requested by Radio organisations in Hong Kong, Indonesia and Borneo for their own use. The Chinese Programmes formed a 150 voice choir during the year and Malay Programmes organised in August a singing competition which attracted more than 250 entrants. Distinguished musicians from India, such as the Nagaswaram virtuoso, P. Subramaniam Pillai, gave a number of recitals from the Singapore studios.

The novelty in spoken word programmes was the introduction of a weekly story-telling series in the Hinhwa dialect of Chinese. Other popular story-telling programmes include that of the brilliant Cantonese raconteur, Lee Dai Soh. In Chinese, too, there have been a notable increase in radio talks on the arts and culture generally, and as an experiment, the presentation of complete Peking operas on the air. *World Affairs*, a weekly broadcast in all languages, was given during the absence on leave of Radio Malaya's regular speaker Allington Kennard, by a variety of distinguished foreign affairs commentators including the man who, many years ago, originated this type of broadcast on the B.B.C. in Britain, Vernon Bartlett.

Activities overseas included a visit by an English Programmes observer to Ceylon to gather material for a programme on the newly arrived Vampire Jet Squadron of the Royal Air Force and a recording tour in Indonesia which yielded a rich crop of musical programmes and documentary features for broadcasting on both English and Malay Programmes.

The firmly established English transmission *University of the Air* was rivalled during the year by a similar programme series in the Malay language. Contributions came from University students and lecturers in the form of discussions, broadcast talks and plays.

Outstanding sporting events on the air were the Thomas Cup Championship and commentaries from the Malayan Amateur Athletic Association Meeting, which this year was in effect a proving ground for the forthcoming Olympics.

Women were catered for in a variety of new ways notably by the Malay Programmes on *Mothers and Babies* and *Aids To Beauty*, as well as in Singapore's answer to the fabulously popular B.B.C.'s real-live series *The Adventures of Esah*. This found immediate favour with listeners some of whom have yet to be convinced that the family is a fictitious one, born in the studios of Radio Malaya, Singapore.

An experiment in adult education, the teaching of literacy by radio, produced significant results. These showed that a method, never previously tried anywhere else in the world, can profitably be used to combat illiteracy. Plans are now nearly completion for a second Malay literacy course and for an adult education series in English on the economy of Malaya.

At the other end of the broad field of radio programmes came Variety, at once the most widely enjoyed and the most difficult to produce of any broadcast. Some highlights of the year are noteworthy. The English comedy series *Towkay's Tavern*, proved for the first time that Radio Malaya can, at a price which on the present budget is prohibitive, offer a local competitor to *Take It From Here*. The Malay production *Let's Laugh* confirmed that comedians in that community are not only plentiful but of rare talent. Many of these shows are given before a studio audience and in recent months there has been eager demand for admission to such new programmes as the Chinese and Malay monthly variety shows, featuring comic sketches and popular songs.

There were several significant staff changes in 1955, the most important being the transfer of the Headquarters of Malay Programmes to Kuala Lumpur under their new Programme Supervisor, an Honours graduate from the University of Malaya. Progress in Malayanisation of English language programmes resulted, at the end of the year, in there being for the first time, a majority of local-born news readers and producers in that section. By December only two of the English language programme producers in Singapore were expatriate. The total English Programme expatriate staff was reduced to four, two of whom were engaged on other duties.

Encouraging signs that Radio Malaya's programmes are now appreciated overseas were plentiful. At their request, programmes were supplied to Radio Sarawak, Radio Sabah (Borneo), Radio Hong Kong and the B.B.C., and programmes have been asked for by Radio Republic Indonesia. The Radio Malaya Orchestra which gave 209 broadcasts in a variety of combinations, recorded for the Government of Brunei a new version of their State Anthem.

Hours of broadcasting remained the same as in 1954 and the general programmes in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil became firmly established. Carried on the trans-peninsular V.H.F. link, they offered in a pan-Malayan transmission the best contributions from all the four stations of the department.

ANALYSIS OF BROADCASTING HOURS IN AN AVERAGE MONTH, 1955

	<i>English</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Malay</i>	<i>Tamil</i>	<i>All Sections</i>	<i>Per- centage</i>
Classical and traditional music ..	26	100	30	27	183	18.4
Popular music ..	178	90	40	67	375	37.6
Variety, stories and drama (including quizzes) ..	30	51	9	12	102	10.3
Children's session (including programmes for youth in general)	11	—	4	2	17	1.8
Talks and features (including newstalks, discussions, forums, language lessons, etc.) ..	26	22	13	13	74	7.5
Religion ..	4	2	3	—	9	1.0
News (excluding newstalks) ..	21	71	16	16	124	12.5
Sport ..	15	1	3	1	20	2.0
Schools Broadcasts ..	29	27	17	11	84	8.5
Miscellaneous ..	2	—	2	—	4	.4
Total ..	342	364	137	149	992	100

NEWS ROOM

The News Division produced daily throughout the year 32 news bulletins in English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil, covering more than 13,000 separate news stories. Towards the end of the year an 0800 hours news headline summary in English was introduced.

Besides news bulletins, the Division was responsible for the broadcast of commodity prices and share market reports, and some 350 news talks covering matters of local and international interest. An innovation was the production of daily reports in Chinese and Malay, as well as English, of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly whenever it was sitting. Towards the end of the year the Reuters News Service was provided by teleprinter direct to the News Room from London, giving Radio Malaya's listeners an up-to-the-minute service in world news.

ENGINEERING

Apart from the normal day-to-day operation and maintenance of existing services the energy of the Engineering Division has largely been devoted to the design, fabrication and installation of new services both in the Federation of Malaya and Singapore.

STUDIOS

Considerable use was made of the acou which were on loan from the Public W Federation of Malaya. By this means it v siderable adjustments to the acoustic trea Studio with a marked improvement in i tunity was taken at the same time to : Studio 'F' and its associated Control R treated with the result that from being a acceptable it is now very satisfactory. Fin pletely stripped and is now in course of tests show that this too will finally be mo both F and D use has been made of th developed by the B.B.C. involving the panels in conjunction with tuned resona obtained appear thoroughly to justify the

A prototype pre-tuned medium wave re Reception was produced using funds mad try of Education. This was installed f Balestier Road School.

SERVICE RECORD

The analysis of the total transmitter time lost is as follows:—

Total Transmitter Hours ...	...	2
Total Time Lost ...	...	...
Percentage Time Lost ...	...	...

The causes of faults were:—

(i) Studio Faults ...	...	...
(ii) Line Faults ...	...	...
(iii) Control Room Faults ...	...	...
(iv) Transmitter Faults ...	...	...
(v) Power Failure ...	...	...
(vi) Miscellaneous ...	...	...

REDIFFUSION

Wired broadcasting is carried out by company which has operated under Gover Programmes are distributed from the Cor ber of sub-stations over lines rented from





THE SECOND SOUTH-EAST ASIA FILM FESTIVAL WAS HELD IN SINGAPORE IN MAY 1955

Top—A scene at the Award Presentation Ceremony

Below—His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Nicoll, with some Philippine and Japanese film stars etc.

Public Relations

From there further distribution is carried over about a thousand miles of wire laid by the Company to the loudspeakers of individual subscribers. On 31st December, 1955, there were 34,246 subscribers, each of whom could select one of two programmes, the Gold or the Silver.

The Gold Network is entirely for Chinese and the Silver Network uses English, Malay and some of the less widely spoken Chinese dialects. The programmes consist of about 60 per cent of musical recordings but in addition include one Chinese news broadcast per day, in four dialects, edited by the Company, and a large amount of live broadcasts from the Company's studios, from outside broadcasts and from programme material and news broadcasts relayed from Radio Malaya. Many of the programmes are sponsored by local and international advertisers. The monthly rental for a loudspeaker is \$5.

<i>Rediffusion Programmes</i>			<i>Hours per week</i>
English	69½
Chinese—			
Mandarin	144½
Hokkien	...	...
Cantonese	...	...
Teochew	...	...
Foochow	...	...
Hainanese	...	...
Hakka	...	...
Shanghai	...	...
Malay	10
Total			<hr/> 224 <hr/>

During 1955 large-scale extensions of the main studios and offices were completed—thereby providing greatly enhanced programme facilities.

In 1956 further large-scale expansion in the Queenstown area is proposed.

FILMS

There were 36 licensed cinema theatres in Singapore in addition to open air cinemas in the rural areas, and mobile cinemas. In 1955 the majority of cinemas installed equipment for wide screen and Cinemascope presentation, and many more productions in the various new techniques were imported during the year.

Films are submitted to censorship before screening. There is a procedure for appeal from the decisions of the Board of Film Censors. During the year a total of 1,839 films were submitted for censorship, and included feature films, short subjects, documentary and advertising films and newsreels.

From the local companies in Singapore 19 feature films were produced (17 in the Malay language, 1 in Mandarin and 1 in Hokkien), while several imported films were dubbed in Malay dialogue in the local studios.

All principal British and American companies were represented in Singapore and were the main source of supply for English speaking films and Continental films, which either carried English subtitles or were dubbed into the English language. There has been an increase in the number of Chinese films imported from Hong Kong, mainly in Mandarin and Cantonese, and Indian films in Hindi and Tamil for the entertainment of the very large Chinese and Indian population.

Weekly newsreels arrived regularly by air from four British companies and one American company, as well as newsreels dubbed in Mandarin and Cantonese for exhibition in cinemas showing Chinese films. All newsreels were afforded priority in censorship in order that as little time as possible be lost between their arrival and exhibition in the cinemas.

As in previous years, cinemas showing English language films were required to fulfil the British film quota by showing 10 per cent of films of British origin. This requirement was met by the exhibitors.

XVII

DEFENCE

THE GEOGRAPHICAL position of Singapore, coupled with its well developed communications with other parts of South-East Asia, makes it a natural military centre. It has large establishments of United Kingdom and other Commonwealth forces whose operational commitments lie within and beyond the shores of the Colony. In addition its own local forces have been steadily developed since 1854 when the Singapore Volunteer Corps was first established. The overseas forces which use Singapore as a base are, of course, paid for by their parent Governments. The local forces whose duty it is to defend the Colony are paid for mainly from local taxation. The Colony still suffers from organised communist subversion and a state of Emergency which was proclaimed in 1948 was renewed at three monthly intervals until October 1955. This commits a large proportion of the Police Force to duties other than the normal prevention and suppression of crime.

LOCAL FORCES

Local Forces comprising one regular and seven purely voluntary organisations are raised and maintained in the Colony under local laws at the expense of the taxpayer. The Royal Malayan Navy is at present the only regular force maintained and paid by the Singapore Government whilst the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Singapore Military Forces, Malayan Auxiliary Air Force, Singapore Harbour Board Reserve, and the Civil Defence Corps, provide organised bodies of locally raised personnel disciplined and trained to take an active part in the defence of the Colony as and when the occasion arises. Officers Commanding Regular United Kingdom formations of the three Services (Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force) based on the Colony, direct and supervise training which as far as possible conforms with standards set for comparable United Kingdom Territorial and Auxiliary Forces. Over 6,000 men and women devote a considerable part

of their time to training with these forces (3,000 approximately in the Royal Malayan Navy, Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Singapore Military Forces and Malayan Auxiliary Air Forces, and 3,000 with the Civil Defence Units) while a section of the youth of the Colony is trained with the Sea Cadets, School Cadet Corps (Army) and Malayan Air Training Corps, who prepare boys between the ages of 14 and 18 for further service with the senior volunteer forces of the Colony (if they so desire) at a later date.

Twenty-nine million dollars were voted by the Legislature for the upkeep and development of these services during the year 1955.

ROYAL MALAYAN NAVY

It is natural that in a seaport like Singapore the first efforts to create a full time regular armed force should be turned to the building of a navy. The Royal Malayan Navy was so named in 1952 and is under the command of a Captain seconded from the Royal Navy. Assisted by a suitable complement of officers and instructors, he is entrusted with the task of recruiting and training local men of all races for the defence of Malayan waters.

Development during 1955 has been steady and balanced. The officer strength increased from 31 in 1954 to 44 in 1955, now comprises 29 Royal Navy officers on loan or contract, 14 Malayan officers and 1 civilian dental officer. Nine Malayan cadets were entered in April 1955 (after selection from a list of over 500 applicants), and a civilian schoolmaster commissioned as a Branch Officer. The increase in the number of Malayan officers now serving is a source of satisfaction to all concerned and a progressive step in the production of an all-Malayan navy. One suitable candidate for entry to Dartmouth was found available in each of the two previous years, 1953 and 1954, but in December 1955, 9 Royal Malayan Navy cadets after 7 months' preliminary training in the Royal Malayan Naval Barracks left for the United Kingdom for entry and training at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. During the year, 60 recruits were entered and 21 ratings advanced to higher rate. The composition of the Royal Malayan Navy by races (excluding officers and instructors) is as follows: Malays 80 per cent, Chinese 12 per cent, Eurasians 3 per cent and others 5 per cent.

Buildings in occupation at the beginning of the year included a supply block, instructional block, two barrack blocks, drill shed, wardroom, Chief Petty Officers' Mess and two official residences.

During 1955, a new garage and motor transport workshops and five residences were completed. In addition to these buildings construction at the end of the year included officers' flats, instructors' flats, sick quarters, new dining halls and galleys, and a hard standing for gun mountings.

Ships

The Royal Malayan Navy fleet in 1955 consisted of one naval servicing craft (engineering) (H.M.M.S. *Malaya*), one landing craft gunnery (large) (H.M.M.S. *Pelandok*), seven seaward defence motor launches, and one small mine-layer (H.M.M.S. *Penyu*). Two new inshore minesweepers are planned, and building is expected to begin in 1956.

Training

During the year, in addition to sea training in H.M.M.S. *Pelandok*, 12 classes of various branches were given complete courses of instruction in the Royal Malayan Naval Barracks, whilst another five classes were still in progress at the end of 1955. In addition, two special classes—one for training promising junior rates for higher rating, and the other an advanced course for Chief and Petty Officers were completed. The Royal Malayan Navy also participated in several fleet exercises in conjunction with units of the Royal Navy and other Colonial and Dominion navies. Close liaison has been maintained with the volunteer forces. A seaward defence motor launch has been placed at the disposal of the Singapore Division of the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve for weekend training, and in addition, berths found in H.M.M.S. *Pelandok* and motor launches for a number of ratings carrying out their 14 days' annual training. The Federation Division of the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve was also assisted, H.M.M.S. *Pelandok* being made available for the annual sea training of officers and ratings, whilst officers and ratings of the Singapore Sea Cadet Corps have carried out their annual training in the Royal Malayan Naval barracks.

Naval Operations

The Royal Malayan Navy was more committed in 1955 to operational tasks and Malayan coastal patrols than during any other year since the Emergency began in 1948. In addition to carrying out 23 patrols of 14 days each, ships of the Royal Malayan Navy were actively employed in the operation to clear the Penggarang peninsula of terrorists. H.M.M.S. *Pelandok* carried out three bombardments, and the Seaward Patrol Craft Squadron

spent over 100 days in lifting troops to the battle area, evacuating injured personnel, and maintaining close patrols off the beaches to prevent the escape by sea of territories flushed out of the jungle. This record of active service is indicative of the all round progress made.

Outstanding Events of the Year

The Royal Malayan Navy took part in all the major ceremonial parades in Singapore during the year. A guard of honour was provided for His Excellency the Governor at the ceremonial parade marking the opening of the Legislative Assembly, and contingents were paraded at the Queen's Birthday Parade and the Armistice Day Parade in Singapore. In addition, an armed contingent provided the escort for His Highness the Sultan of Johore during the State procession which marked His Highness's Diamond Jubilee: the Royal Malayan Navy were also represented in Kuala Lumpur at the Armistice Day Parade. Among several distinguished visitors received by the Royal Malayan Navy during the year were His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable the Chief Minister, Mr. David Marshall.

MALAYAN ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE, SINGAPORE DIVISION

The Singapore Division of the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (a Pan-Malayan force), which is accepted as a reserve to the Royal Navy, is entirely supported out of funds provided by the Singapore Government, and functions under the direct authority of the Governor as Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Colony.

The Division, which has been expanded to include a subdivision, is at full strength and in 1955 reached a high standard of efficiency. Training is carried out on H.M.S. *Laburnum*, the headquarters ship, and H.M.S. *Canna* of the sub-division. Both are well fitted with technical, engineering and electrical equipment, whilst gunnery and marksmanship are carried out in a large drill shed and parade ground which are part of the establishment.

Sea training is mainly carried out in destroyers, frigates, and motor launches of the Royal Navy and Royal Malayan Navy supplemented by inshore cruising amongst the islands and shoals in local waters in M.L. *Panji* and two LCAs. which are tenders to H.M.S. *Laburnum*. A large number of officers and ratings have had training on ships of the Royal Navy and have taken part in naval exercises, particularly in seaward defence exercises in which the Singapore Division is now required to play an important part.

Guards of honour and armed parties were provided for ceremonies during the year and a Royal Guard on the occasion of the presentation of the Freedom of the City to the Right Honourable Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Commissioner-General for South-East Asia.

The First Lord of the Admiralty, the Right Honourable Mr. J. P. L. Thomas, M.P. (now Lord Cilcennin) visited H.M.S. *Laburnum* during the course of a stay in the Colony and watched the Division carry out training, commenting most favourably on the standard of efficiency attained. The Right Honourable Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies also visited H.M.S. *Laburnum* later in the year and showed great interest in the Division's work and role allotted in the defence of the Colony.

H.M.S. *Panglima*, a modern and well equipped anti-submarine and seaward defence vessel, capable of carrying 8 officers and 30 ratings on long training cruises at good speed is near completion and the launching is scheduled to take place in mid-January 1956. The commissioning of this vessel will mark an important stage in the progress of the Division.

SINGAPORE MILITARY FORCES

The establishment and maintenance of land forces for the defence and security of the Colony is provided for in the Singapore Military Forces Ordinance, 1953 which has been operative since 27th April, 1954. This Force stems from the Singapore Volunteer Corps founded in 1854 and carries with it the traditions and proud record of over 100 years of voluntary military service in Singapore. The Singapore Military Forces raised and maintained at the expense of the Colony is commanded by an officer seconded from the regular army, assisted by a small permanent administrative and instructional staff.

Organisation

There are at present ten units in the Force, excluding Headquarters, and these comprise:—

- Singapore Armoured Corps (Volunteers);
- Singapore Royal Artillery Coast Battery (Volunteers);
- Singapore Royal Artillery (Fire Command Battery) (Volunteers);
- Singapore Royal Artillery (Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment) (Volunteers);
- Singapore Royal Artillery (Coast Artillery) (Volunteers);
- Singapore Royal Engineers (Volunteers);
- Singapore Army Service Corps (Volunteers);
- Singapore Corps of Signals (Volunteers);
- Singapore Electrical and Mechanical Engineers;
- 1st Battalion Singapore Volunteer Corps (Infantry).

The Force is recruited from all races in the Colony. They mix and work well together and attendance at annual camp involves personnel living and working together to close proximity for 14 days. Composition of the Force on 31st December, 1955 was:—

<i>Europeans</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Eurasians</i>	<i>Indians</i>	<i>Malays</i>
54	874	77	122	597

The introduction of National Service in 1954 and subsequent development of the scheme resulted in expansion in terms of personnel, of approximately 70 per cent in 1955. The overall strength of the Force on the 1st January, 1955 was 1,035 all ranks which included 399 National Servicemen, whilst at the 31st December, 1955 the total strength was 1,724 all ranks, including 1,121 National Servicemen. This increase produced the usual attendant problems and imposed a heavy burden on the permanent staff, volunteer officers and non-commissioned officers directly responsible for training.

Training

Training was carried out at evening parades of two hours' duration on four evenings a week, at week-end training camps and at the annual training camp. In the main, every man attended for training on two evenings each week, for five week-end training camps during the year and for one annual camp of from 10 to 14 days' duration.

The main training centre for the Singapore Military Forces is located at its Headquarters at Beach Road, Singapore. Week-end training and annual camp took place for most units at Tanah Merah Besar. Exceptions were the Coast Battery, Singapore Royal Artillery (Volunteers) who trained on gun positions on Blakang Mati and at Batu Berlayer, and the Singapore Royal Engineers (Volunteer) who were able at the end of the season to use part of the Civil Defence Headquarters compound in Kolam Ayer Lane. Four units attended annual training camps in Johore whilst several units held week-end exercises at bivouac scale at various places on Singapore Island. Expansion has resulted in a shortage of training space which it is hoped will be rectified in 1956.

Recruit Training

During the year 862 recruits were trained in two courses of five months' duration each. Training included drill, rifle and bayonet, light automatic and map reading. The training staff was



The Malayan Auxiliary Air Force, organised on a Pan-Malayan basis in 1950, has a Singapore Section composed of a Squadron and a Fighter Control Unit



Public Relations

NATIONAL SERVICE WAS INTRODUCED IN SINGAPORE IN MARCH 1954. BY THE END OF 1955, 485 PERSONS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING WITHIN THE AGE GROUPS 18 AND 19

Top—National Servicemen receiving instructions

Right—The Royal Malayan Navy was constituted as a Regular Force in 1952. It has undertaken frequent operations against the terrorists along the Malayan coast



provided by temporarily converting two companies of the 1st Battalion, Singapore Volunteer Corps into Recruit Training Companies and supplementing them with officers and N.C.O. instructors from other units. A number of permanent Staff Instructors were also made available. The results achieved were most creditable, and recruits were posted to their units with sufficient military knowledge and skill on which to base their further training.

Officer Training

A course lasting 6 months to train potential officers was held during the year. As a result 8 cadets were commissioned as Second-Lieutenants in the Singapore Military Forces on 14th December, 1955.

Courses

In September 1955 a course in Light Rescue was held by the Civil Defence Corps in Singapore for 14 Other Ranks of the Singapore Military Forces, whilst a Cook's course run for members of the Singapore Military Forces at the Army Catering Corps Training Centre at Nee Soon proved to be most successful. One officer of the Singapore Royal Artillery (Volunteers) was attached for a fortnight and carried out light anti-aircraft training with a light anti-aircraft unit in the United Kingdom.

Liaison with and Assistance to Other Units, etc.

Close liaison was maintained throughout the year with the Royal Navy, Regular Army, Royal Air Force and allied volunteer units in the Colony. Assistance was provided by erection of two 50-foot Bailey bridges on the Changi Road for the Public Works Department in connection with flood relief: loan of a Dome Trainer and Dome Trainer operator to the Royal Air Force Regiment: loan of Changi Camp to the School Cadets: loan of Singapore Military Forces transport to the City Council during the bus strike: assisting Singapore Rifle Association at holiday rifle meetings.

Notable Events

During the year the Singapore Military Forces provided guards of honour on several occasions, and were called upon to line the route at the opening of the Legislative Assembly in April, whilst on the 17th July, 1955, the Chief Minister, paid an informal visit to the Singapore Military Forces Camp at Changi and inspected personnel in the camp undergoing week-end training. On 16th August the Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the Force accompanied by the Chief Secretary and inspected units at training.

NATIONAL SERVICE

The National Service Ordinance continued in force in 1955, and registration was carried out throughout the year of persons who were liable to register under the Ordinance. A total of 485 persons were thus registered.

It was decided that, in order to adhere to the policy of calling up only persons who were 19 years of age it would be necessary to hold a medical examination during the year of those who were 18 years of age at the time of registration in 1954, preparatory to selecting some of them by ballot for call-up. Seven thousand one hundred and forty-one persons were therefore examined at the General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital, in accordance with a modified Army Pullheems System, of whom 6,611 were found fit for service with either the Singapore Military Forces or the Civil Defence Corps. As happened last year, examinations were held between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the rate of 100 to 150 persons per evening at each hospital, and the arrangements again worked smoothly.

A total of 651 applications for postponement of service under Part VII of the National Service Ordinance were submitted on the grounds that exceptional hardship would ensue if the applicants were called up. Of these applications 524 were approved, 86 refused and 41 subsequently withdrawn. Of those approved, 516 were on the grounds of interference with education. Twenty-seven appeals against rejection of applications for postponement were heard by the Appeal Tribunal and all were disallowed.

Two ballots were held in January and June to select National Servicemen for the second and third intakes into the Singapore Military Forces, and a third in May for the second intake into the Civil Defence Corps. Eight hundred men were selected by this means for the Singapore Military Forces and 600 for the Civil Defence Corps. The ballots were conducted by the National Service Allocation Committee.

Call-up notices were issued to persons whose registration numbers were drawn from the ballot box, those chosen for the Singapore Military Forces reporting for duty on the 1st February and the 27th June and those for the Civil Defence Corps on the 31st May. Their progress is mentioned in the sections dealing with the Singapore Military Forces and the Civil Defence Corps below.

During 1955 the full impact of the National Service scheme was felt for the first time, and the fact that it has been possible

to complete the designed training schedule reflects highly on the zeal and energy of the volunteer officers and non-commissioned officers who bore the brunt of training new intakes.

In general the reaction of National Servicemen to their training has been very good. Encouraged by the example of the volunteers they have entered into their training with notable and praiseworthy eagerness. With a few individual exceptions attendance for training was regular. In spite of difficulties the year has been a successful one, and newly formed and newly expanded units are beginning to take shape and develop individuality. Foundations for progress have been laid, and the future is viewed with confidence by all ranks of the Singapore Military Forces who animated by the "volunteer spirit" maintain a very high standard of morale.

MALAYAN AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

The Malayan Auxiliary Air Force is a volunteer force raised jointly by the Singapore and Federation Governments for the defence of Malaya. The Singapore Section of this Force is recruited and maintained at the expense of the Colony out of monies provided by the Legislature. The Force is commanded by an officer of the Royal Air Force who holds executive powers over the Singapore Section and is jointly responsible to the Governor of Singapore and the High Commissioner of the Federation of Malaya. Command of the Singapore Section is entrusted to a volunteer Wing Commander and all members of the Section serve on a voluntary part-time basis with the exception of a permanent Staff Officer, his assistants and instructors.

The Section comprises a Squadron, and a Fighter Control Unit and overall strength at 31st December, 1955 aggregated 368 all ranks composed of the following races, viz.:—

<i>Europeans</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Malays</i>	<i>Indians</i>	<i>Eurasians</i>	<i>Ceylonese</i>	<i>Jews</i>
21	221	62	41	14	8	1

Expansion in terms of personnel was limited in 1955 by the need to further the training of the large 1954 intake, and recruiting during the year virtually ceased with the exception of six recruits who were accepted to fill vacancies in the Administrative, Equipment and Mechanical Transport Branches. In the Fighter Control Unit a minimum of 70 per cent trained personnel is deemed essential for efficient working, and as this target has been almost achieved recruiting should again be undertaken in 1956.

Training

The course assembled in November 1954 completed their initial ground training and began flying training in April 1955, and five trainees have accumulated an impressive total of hours in the air. The progress of training, which is dependent to a great extent on the weather has been most satisfactory and a second course assembled for initial training on 15th December, 1955. Qualified pilots continued to receive instructions and training throughout the year in Instrument Flying, Bombing, Gunnery and General Handling. The Squadron now consists of five qualified pilots and five untrained pilots whilst machines on charge comprise six Harvard Trainers and three Tiger Moths.

Technical training proceeded in spite of difficulties created by transport strikes which had an adverse effect on attendances, and for the first time since the Section was established, Royal Air Force Trade Test Boards were held at Tengah in May 1955 for the exclusive benefit of the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force. Ten tradesmen sat the tests and the 8 who passed included 3 airframe mechanics. Two engine mechanics, 2 instrument mechanics and 1 armament mechanic. One airframe mechanic secured 80 per cent marks and qualified for S.A.C. rating.

Training programme for the Fighter Control Unit was completed with the exception of 98 airmen who were still awaiting final examination and trade testing at the end of the year, whilst a Cadet Controller Course commenced at the end of 1954 was concluded during the summer camp period, three out of the four candidates passing with high marks. The Fighter Control Unit shewed a strength of 112 trained airmen and 98 airmen under training as at 31st December, 1955.

Camps

The annual camp held at Taiping in 1955 and a summer camp for the Fighter Control Unit located at Telok Paku were both well attended and a marked success.

Fly-Pasts, Parades, etc.

The Squadron figured prominently in fly-pasts for the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, the opening ceremony at the new Singapore Airport, the Battle of Britain commemoration, and the Diamond Jubilee of His Highness the Sultan of Johore. In each instance the slow fly-past was led by pilots of the Singapore Squadron. Reports and photographs bear testimony to the precision and accuracy of the formation. A contingent of the Malayan Auxiliary

Air Force was present at the Queen's Birthday Parade and the Remembrance Day Parade, whilst the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force also supplied the guard of honour at the opening of the International Airport at Paya Lebar on 21st August, 1955.

On the 16th August, 1955 the Secretary of State for the Colonies visited and inspected the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force Headquarters at Beach Road, and on 19th November, 1955 the Secretary of State for Air, Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, v.c. visited the Squadron and showed great interest in the training activities of the Force.

The year 1955 marks a period of steady progress and consolidation for the Singapore Section of the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force. The personnel constituting the Force have worked well together as a team and shewn a vigour and determination in their approach to training which is most satisfactory and augurs well for the future.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD RESERVE

The Singapore Harbour Board Reserve was established in 1950 in order to secure continuity of work in the port under conditions of danger in emergency. The scheme provides for the raising of a force of volunteers who, issued with a minimum of uniform, perform drills to acquire the advantage of working together in a disciplined manner and minimise casualties. The authority for the scheme is the Singapore Harbour Board Reserve Ordinance enacted on 10th July, 1952. The strength of the Reserve as at 31st December, 1955 was 501 all ranks. In the event of an emergency this Reserve would be mobilised and required to operate in a capacity comparable with that of a Port Operating Company, Royal Engineers.

As the Reserve is housed in premises in the Harbour Board area, and parades as required on Harbour Board land with a minimum of equipment, the cost of Government of running the Force is very small.

Training

During the year 79 parades were held and exercises in Dock Operation were carried out. An Officers' Cadre Course was conducted by two regular officers from Headquarters, Far East Land Forces whilst 32 senior non-commissioned officers attended a Training Course. Route marches were held once monthly and, to

foster enthusiasm and a spirit of rivalry an inter-company competition in drill movements, marching and discipline was held in November 1955, winning and runner-up companies being presented with trophies.

The Reserve was inspected by the General Officer Commanding, Singapore Base District, Major-General D. D. Tulloch, D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. on 22nd April, 1955. Two regular officers from Far East Land Forces attended one parade each week and provided assistance and advice on all matters of training pertaining to the Reserve.

The Reserve comprises 60 per cent Indians and Chinese the remainder being made up of Eurasians, Malays and others, and is a well balanced force. Their enthusiasm for volunteering is strongly reflected in the vigorous and spirited manner in which training is undertaken, and by example, it should attract in emergency non-reservists who will be required to work in close collaboration with the Reserve and thereby secure continuity of loading and discharging ships berthed alongside the wharves of the Board.

CIVIL DEFENCE FORCES

Established in 1951 under the terms of the Civil Defence Ordinance, 1951 (No. 19 of 1951) a Civil Defence organisation has been developed in Singapore to ensure that necessary preparations are made to meet air attacks designed to disrupt the normal life of the Colony. The Corps is concerned with Civil Defence Planning, procurement and storage of stores and equipment, training of personnel, and the control of operations undertaken by members of the Civil Defence Corps and volunteers of other volunteer organisations required to assist the Police, Fire, Medical and Welfare services in special emergencies. The Corps, which is commanded by a Civil Defence Commissioner, is divided into five sections: Headquarters, Warden, Rescue, Ambulance and Welfare. Members are required to carry out a maximum of 60 hours training per annum for a period of two years, followed by reserve training of 12 hours each year. The Headquarters and dépôt are located at Kolam Ayer in an area adjacent to the Headquarters of the Auxiliary Fire Service and the Engineer Squadron, Singapore Military Forces and comprise administrative and record offices, stores, garages, rescue dépôt, training school, club house and recreational grounds. A large and well equipped club house completed in March 1955 provides for the recreational and social needs of

members of the Corps including allied services, such as Singapore Hospital Reserve, St. John Ambulance Brigade and members of the Police Force attending training with the Civil Defence Corps.

Training

A comprehensive training programme covering a wide range of subjects was undertaken and completed during the year. The first National Service intake was well advanced at the end of the training period, and the second intake started training in June. Both intakes had satisfactorily completed a course in elementary foot drill at the end of the year. Two Tactical Courses in Advanced Civil Defence subjects were conducted for officers and non-commissioned officers and members of the Singapore Police Force. Special Constabulary, personnel from H.M. Naval Base and other ranks of the Singapore Military Forces attended short courses from time to time. Rescue Instructors Courses for selected members of Government departments held over periods of 12 days were also undertaken. Personnel placed on the Corps Reserve received the requisite 12 hours prescribed annual training and where possible this was carried out locally at schools made available by the Ministry of Education.

The year's Reserve training terminated in an island-wide exercise on 9th October, in which some 800 Reservists of the Corps, the Auxiliary Fire Service, and the Singapore Hospital Reserve took part. It was witnessed by His Excellency the Governor and the Chief Minister. Valuable assistance was given on this occasion by No. 1 (B) Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, whose Lincoln bombers flew over simulating air attack.

National Service personnel were provided with standard general training, standard first aid, standard rescue, section training, warden section training, ambulance section training, welfare section and foot drill. Classes had necessarily to be conducted in English, Hokkien, Malay, Cantonese and Teochew.

The Corps on 1st January, 1955 comprised 890 volunteers (all ranks) and 593 National Servicemen, and at 31st December, 1955 overall strength had increased by 589 inasmuch as active personnel totalled 935 volunteers (all ranks) and 1,137 National Servicemen.

AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICE

The Singapore Auxiliary Fire Service, an integral part of the Civil Defence Services of the Colony, is controlled and administered by the Superintendent of the City Fire Brigade whilst executive command of the service is delegated to a volunteer Commandant

appointed by His Excellency the Governor. On 1st January, 1955 total strength was 334 all ranks and at 31st December, 1955 personnel totalled 505. Excellent facilities exist for training at the new depôt opened in November 1954, and equipment includes turntable ladders, motor pumps, water tenders, 50 large trailer pumps and 10 portable pumps together with a variety of ancillary equipment. Basic training is held at the depôt, the more advanced crews being permitted to participate in exercises in other parts of the City. For four months of the year an auxiliary standby crew was provided on a 12-hour standby duty each week whilst for the rest of 1955 two standby crews were made available to assist the regulars for 2-hour periods each working day and for 4 hours on Saturdays. On a number of occasions during the year fire appliances manned by Auxiliaries attended outbreaks of fire with the regular Fire Brigade and gain valuable practical experience. In the Kampong Silat fire during the latter half of the year when over 100 attap houses caught fire, 30 Auxiliaries acted as reliefs manning four appliances. The Auxiliary Fire Service materially assisted in containing this fire within the area of its origin and in subsequent damping down operations. A City Fire Brigade Officer has been seconded to act as Staff Officer with the Auxiliary Fire Service and has contributed materially towards the progress made by the Force as a whole during the year.

A contingent of the Auxiliary Fire Service participated in the Queen's Birthday Parade whilst the Service was also represented by six fully manned appliances on an island-wide Civil Defence Exercise on the 9th October. The year ended with a Passing Out Parade on 31st December when Proficiency Certificates were presented to 160 members who were subsequently placed on the Reserve. The Service is now well established as a solid and permanent auxiliary of the regular force.

SINGAPORE HOSPITAL RESERVE

The Singapore Hospital Reserve formed and operated under powers conferred in the Civil Defence Ordinance, 1951 (No. 19 of 1951) has now been functioning as such for four years. The object and aim of the Reserve is the training of volunteers to reinforce and augment hospital staffs in times of emergency. Members of the Singapore Hospital Reserve are required to hold First Aid and Home Nursing Certificates of the St. John Ambulance Association and additionally undergo a specified period of instruction at the General Hospital, which on successful completion confers auxiliary

nursing qualifications. The instruction consists of lectures and demonstrations covering the basics and fundamentals of nursing, and necessarily calls for some practical training in wards and an elementary knowledge of hospital equipment in common use.

The overall strength of the Reserve as at 31st December, 1955 was 826 comprising 592 Nursing Auxiliaries and 234 General Duties personnel. Composition by races was as follows viz.:—

<i>Eurasians</i>	<i>Jews</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Malays</i>	<i>Indians</i>
19	2	670	98	37

The enrolment of 151 volunteers during the year provided a maximum intake, as training resources would not permit the handling of any larger number of recruits in a 12-monthly period. Thirty-three candidates passed the Nursing Auxiliary 'A' examination and 37 Nursing Auxiliary 'B'.

Exercises

Four exercises were held during the year in conjunction with the Civil Defence Corps and approximately 60 members of the Reserve participated. The Singapore Hospital Reserve were required to set up an emergency hospital and provide a mobile first aid team on the exercise ground of the Civil Defence Headquarters at Kolam Ayer Lane.

One hundred and twenty members of the Reserve took part in an island-wide exercise held in October 1955, being responsible for the manning and operation of First Aid Posts, an Admission Room, Casualty Room and a Hospital Ward. Four mobile First Aid Posts manned by Reservists were also employed in various parts of the Island. The exercise was rated as most successful and members of the Reserve participating benefitted appreciably from the practical gained.

An island-wide Health Week held between 21st and 26th November, 1955 involved the Reserve insomuch as 61 members undertook duties at the Central Exhibition in the Happy World Stadium whilst 6 members were on duty at various regional centres. These volunteers' turn-out and bearing created a very favourable impression with the general public.

CADET CORPS

Sea Cadet Corps

The Sea Cadet Corps is maintained at the expense of the Colony out of monies provided by the Legislative Council and operates under the provisions of the Singapore Sea Cadet Corps Ordinance,

1955. General training, discipline and welfare is the responsibility of the Senior Officer, Sea Cadet Corps who is aided and advised as required by an Advisory Committee. The Corps is affiliated with the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Unit strength in 1955 remained unchanged being five school units and two open units; membership of the latter is open to all boys shewing the desired degree of intelligence and capable of absorbing instructions given. All members of the Corps are unpaid voluntary part-time workers.

The training ship *Faulkner*, three boats, four cadet dinghies, and subsidiary gear provided adequate equipment for training during the year. Three additional dinghies have been ordered and are in process of construction, delivery being due in 1956. Training courses for cadets and officers were organised and run by the Royal Navy and the Royal Malayan Navy during the school holidays, instructors being provided by the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Royal Navy. Each unit spent one complete Saturday with the Royal Navy and Royal Malayan Navy during the course of the year and greatly benefitted through being granted a sight of, and direct contact with regular unit stationed in the Colony.

Five scholarships were awarded during the year by local shipping companies. These scholarships take the form of cruises to different countries and are awarded by a selection board. They do need to maintain enthusiasm, and cruised cadets in deciding on whether to make the sea a career. The Ben Line donated one scholarship for a cruise to the United Kingdom and one to Japan; the Blue Funnel Line one to the United Kingdom and the Straits Steamship Company two to Borneo.

Corps strength at the end of 1955 comprised 28 officers and 350 cadets which is highly satisfactory and reflects very creditably on all concerned with the activities of the Corps.

School Cadet Corps (Army)

Powers to enrol and train school cadets are provided in the School Cadet Corps Rules, 1955, being legislation subsidiary to the Singapore Military Forces Ordinance, 1953 (No. 43 of 1953). Seven school contingents are now organised to give part-time infantry training. An examination for a proficiency certificate follows this course of training and during the year 138 cadet candidates secured Part I Certificates and 102 Part II Certificates.

Twelve teachers were commissioned in June 1955 after successfully qualifying at a training course for Cadet Officers and all are now employed with their respective school contingents. The training syllabus was covered during the year and the standards attained afforded satisfaction to all concerned. Training in musketry and Bren gun use was provided through the co-operation of the Singapore Military Forces and firing on the open range proved to be a very popular phase of training. During the August school holidays 21 officers and 250 cadets attended the Annual Cadet Camp organised by the Singapore Military Forces at their training camp at Tanah Merah Besar and the fact that the personnel involved represented a variety of races and religions proved no bar, all mixing freely and living in complete harmony.

The Corps were assisted throughout the year by the Commandant, Singapore Military Forces and his staff who loaned equipment, provided transport, and aided in the organising and running of training courses and the annual camp. The effective strength of the Corps at the end of the year was 632 all ranks.

Malayan Air Training Corps

The Malayan Air Training Corps is organised and operated under the provisions of the Malayan Air Training Corps Ordinance, 1949, and provides for a Corps organised into both open and school units. The Corps is commanded and administered by a volunteer Commandant aided by an Advisory Committee whilst an officer of the Royal Air Force is appointed by the Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Malaya to inspect and assist in the training and administration of units. The training syllabus includes theoretical and practical engineering, radio, air navigation and allied subjects. The object is to secure and hold the interest of boys who with discipline and training can be made air-minded, and ultimately extend and elementary knowledge acquired with the Malayan Air Training Corps by joining the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force.

The Corps consisted in 1955 of one open unit of a total strength of 195 cadets and 7 officers. Current indications are that several school units will be established in 1956.

In January 1955, an exchange visit was arranged between Australia and Malaya. Eight Singapore and 11 Federation cadets made an extensive aerial tour of Australia for a month, and 20 Australian cadets visited Singapore and the Federation. The aim of the exchange, the first of its kind for Malayan cadets was to

encourage air-mindedness and provide members of the Corps with a sight of outside territories. In Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, Malayan Air Training Corps cadets were entertained by the Air Training Corps organisation. The Malayan Film Unit recorded this exchange in a film *Wings of Goodwill* which has had a wide screening in all parts of the world.

The annual camp was held at the Royal Naval Air Station, Sembawang where 200 cadets (100 from Singapore and 100 from the Federation) spent 10 days visiting Royal Air Force and Army establishments, flying, and attending lectures.

Throughout the year Malayan Air Training Corps cadets joined the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force on attaining the necessary minimum age, and full support was provided by the Royal Air Force who supervised a series of courses of instructions for cadets.

XVIII

CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION

CONSTITUTION

(i) CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

THE YEAR 1955 saw a change in Singapore from the standard form of a Crown Colony government to an advanced constitution incorporating a ministerial form of government.

At the beginning of the year the administration was conducted by the Governor, advised by an Executive Council consisting of 4 *ex-officio* members, 2 nominated official members, 4 nominated unofficial members and 2 members elected by the Legislative Council. Laws were made with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council consisting of 4 *ex-officio* members, 5 nominated official members, 4 nominated unofficial members and 12 elected members.

In 1952 the Governor had appointed two committees composed of members of the Legislative Council: the one to make recommendations on the number of elected members in the Council, on the distribution of electoral districts, and on the desirability of appointing a Speaker; the other to examine the electoral machinery of the Colony. Both committees reported in 1953 and it became apparent that more far reaching changes were needed than either committee could recommend within its respective terms of reference. Accordingly, towards the end of 1953, the Governor appointed a Constitutional Commission consisting of Sir George Rendel, K.C.M.G., as Chairman and 8 members chosen from the Legislative Council—5 chosen by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council themselves and 3 chosen by the Governor. The Commission was directed to undertake a comprehensive review of the constitution of the Colony, including the relationship between the Government and the City Council, and to make recommendations.

The Constitutional Commission reported in February 1954 and made the following principal recommendations:—

- (i) an automatic system of registering voters;
- (ii) the transformation of the Legislative Council into a mainly elected Assembly consisting of a Speaker, twenty-five popularly elected Unofficial Members, three *ex-officio* Official Members and four Unofficial Members to be nominated by the Governor;
- (iii) the constitution of a Council of Ministers as the main policy making body in replacement of the Executive Council. Its President would be the Governor and of the nine members, styled Ministers, three would be the three *ex-officio* Members of the Legislative Assembly and six would be Members of the Assembly. Of these six Ministers one, being the leader of the majority party or coalition of parties, would be Chief Minister and the other five Ministers would be appointed on his recommendation. The principle of collective responsibility would apply in the Council of Ministers in much the same way as in the Cabinets of the United Kingdom or Dominions;
- (iv) the local authorities, the City Council and the Rural Board, should be reconstituted as a single body.

The first three of these recommendations, having been approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, were embodied in a new constitution promulgated in the Singapore Colony Order in Council 1955. One of the oldest buildings in the Colony was completely reconstructed within the existing outer walls as the new Assembly House.

Following the recommendations of the Rendel Commission an Electoral Boundaries Delimitation Committee was appointed to subdivide the Island into 25 electoral divisions in place of the existing 9.

To provide for the elections under the new constitution the Legislative Assembly Elections Ordinance was enacted in 1954. Under it no distinction of race or sex is made in the qualifications required of electors. An elector to the Legislative Assembly must be 21 years of age, and must be ordinarily resident in the Colony and must be a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies or must have been born in the Federation of Malaya or in one of British territories in Borneo. Persons who owe allegiance to a foreign state, who are undergoing sentence of imprisonment or who are serving members of the Armed Services (other than local forces) or who fall into certain other categories are disqualified from voting. Registration of voters was to be automatic and electoral registers were accordingly prepared from information contained in the National Registration Office and made open to inspection by the public in 25 different centres throughout the Island.





Candidates for election to the Legislative Assembly are required to be registered electors able to speak, read and write English sufficiently to take an active part in the proceedings of the Assembly. Undischarged bankrupts, persons declared by law to be of unsound mind and certain others are debarred from contesting elections. Candidates must be citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies over the age of 21 who have resided in the Colony for 7 years out of the 10 years preceding nomination for election.

It was under these conditions that the general elections for the Legislative Assembly were held in 2nd April. The electorate was 300,000 in contrast with 75,000 for the 1951 election, and administrative arrangements had to be made on a very large scale, involving the staffing of 283 polling stations by nearly all the clerical and non-technical officers at the Government's disposal. Elaborate publicity was given to polling procedure for several weeks preceding the election, and in the event over 160,000 persons recorded their votes. Votes were counted and the results announced as soon as polling was over, giving the following result:—

<i>Party</i>	<i>Seats</i>
Labour Front	10
Progressive	4
People's Action Party	3
UMNO-MCA Alliance	3
Independents	3
Democrat	2

The leader of the Labour Front, Mr. David Marshall, was invited to form a Government and his coalition of five Labour Front Ministers, including himself as Chief Minister, and one U.M.N.O.-M.C.A. Alliance Minister took office on 7th April, 1955.

The allocation of portfolios was as follows:—

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Departments</i>
The Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Marshall, Chief Minister and Minister for Commerce and Industry	Commerce Industry Production Trade Policy	Commerce and Industry Imports and Exports Supplies Foreign Exchange (administration) Agriculture Veterinary Services Fisheries Fisheries Research Co-operative Development Registration of Companies Registration of Trade Marks Registration of Business Names

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Departments</i>
	Shipping	Marine Marine Surveys (Relations with) Singapore Harbour Board
The Hon'ble Mr. Lim Yew Hock, Minister for Labour and Welfare	Labour	Labour Workmen's Compensation (Relations with) Central Provident Fund Board
	Welfare	Social Welfare
	Immigration	Immigration
The Hon'ble Mr. Chew Swee Kee, Minister for Education	Education	Education Museum and Library (Relations with) University of Malaya. Singapore Polytechnic
The Hon'ble Inche Abdul Hamid bin Jumat, Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing	Local Government Lands	(Relations with) City Council and Rural Board Lands
	Housing	Survey (Relations with) Singapore Improvement Trust
	Town and Country Planning	
	(Local) Island Administration	
The Hon'ble Mr. Francis Thomas, Minister for Communications and Works	Communications	Post Telecommunications
	Road Transport	Railway
	Civil Aviation Works	Civil Aviation
		Meteorological Services
		Public Works
The Hon'ble Mr. A. J. Braga, Minister for Health	Public Health	Medical Services
The Hon'ble Mr. W. A. C. Goode, C.M.G., Chief Secretary	External Affairs	
	Commonwealth Representatives	
	Consuls	
	Pilgrimage	
	Malaya House	
	United Nations Affairs	
	Christmas and Cocos Islands	
	Passport	
	Internal Security	Police
	Law and Order	Prisons
	Banishment	Chemistry
	Naturalisation	
	Press Legislation	
	Religious Affairs	Chinese Affairs
	Defence	Singapore Volunteer Corps
		Royal Malayan Navy
		M.R.N.V.R., M.A.A.F.
		Civil Defence Corps

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Departments</i>
	Public Relations British Council	Public Relations Printing Broadcasting Film Censor
	Ceremonial	Gardens
	National Registration Elections Marriage Registration Birth and Death Registration Archives Establishment Organisation and Methods Office Accommodation	Statistics
The Hon'ble Mr. E. J. Davies, Q.C., Attorney-General	Legal Advice Prosecutions Bankruptcy Trusteeship	Official Assignee Public Trustee Custodian of Property
The Hon'ble Mr. T. M. Hart, Financial Secretary	Financial Policy Revenue Banking Insurance Accounting Exchange Control (policy) Currency	Customs Income Tax Estate Duty Stamp Duty Accountant-General Foreign Exchange (policy)

The organisation of the various executive Departments of Government into Ministries, headed each by a Permanent Secretary, has been completed before the Ministers took office. Each Permanent Secretary is responsible to his Minister for the efficient working of the Ministry and for the execution of the policy decisions of the Minister and of the Council of Ministers.

(ii) LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CITY COUNCIL

The City Council which is the local authority within the City area consists of a President appointed by the Governor in Council and 27 members of whom 18 are popularly elected. The Council enjoys a wide measure of autonomy in the matters placed under its control by the Municipal Ordinance and is empowered to make by-laws, but is subject to certain safeguards which come into effect if it should fail to discharge its functions. It is also required to seek the approval of the Governor in Council for such matters as the annual City budget and the raising of loans.

RURAL BOARD

The Rural Board which is the local authority outside the City area, consists of a Chairman and 17 members appointed by the Governor. Seven members represent the 7 Rural District Committees which have existed since 1947 and have served as very useful liaison bodies between the Board and the rural population. The Board carries out in its area some of the local government functions which are performed by the City Council in the City area. It also has powers similar to the City Council for the levying of rates and the making of by-laws and is subject to the same control by the Governor in Council. The Chairman is an *ex-officio* member of the Singapore Improvement Trust and the Board also chooses one of its unofficial members for nomination to the Trust. It has executive branches concerned with buildings, rural cleansing, rate collection and accountancy and it has partial control over the Rural Health Branch of the Government Medical Department and over the Rural Branch of the Public Works Department.

The Rendel Commission had *inter alia* recommended abolishing the City Council and the Rural Board and replacing them by a single City and Island Council, to be composed of a Mayor, 8 Aldermen and 24 elected councillors. The new Government which took office in April did not accept these proposals and instead appointed a Committee to enquire into the desirability of decentralising the powers and functions of the City Council and the Rural Board and in particular to consider the establishment of District Councils, the establishment of statutory corporations responsible for the supply of water, electricity and gas, and the re-allocation of functions and financial responsibilities between Government and the local authorities. This Committee had not reported by the end of the year.

ADMINISTRATION

The Public Service — Composition

The Government, the City Council, the Harbour Board and the Improvement Trust each have their own schemes of service and recruit staff independently of one another. The Rural Board engages its staff on the same conditions as the Government. Together they employ about 48,000 people.

Monthly-paid employees of the Government are classified in four divisions: Division I includes the administrative and professional grades, Divisions II and III the executive, clerical and technical grades while Division IV consists mainly of manual workers. In addition a large number of manual workers are employed on public works and the like and are paid at daily rates.

Appointments and promotions to all except a very few posts in Division I and many posts in lower divisions are made on the advice of a Public Services Commission constituted under an Ordinance of 1949. The Chairman and the two members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor. During 1955 the Commission interviewed 708 candidates for vacant appointments in Divisions I and II of the Public Service. It also considered 9,042 applications for appointments to vacancies in Division III. The Commission also advised on proposals for several amendments in the schemes of service of the Singapore Higher Services and on other proposals affecting the Public Service.

Training

The declared policy of the Government is to fill the service with locally domiciled officers as quickly as is consonant with the need for maintaining standards and efficiency. It would be impossible in the present state of professional education in Malaya to find locally domiciled candidates with the desired qualifications unless steps were taken to train them overseas. This has been continued on an increasing scale and many recruits to the Public Service have been granted scholarships to undertake courses of study up to five years in length. Serving officers have been sent on courses and also attached to Government and other institutions overseas to gain experience in administrative techniques.

During the year, 35 scholars and fellows began courses of study designed to gain higher academic and technical qualifications. At the same time 23 officers proceeded on training courses designed to broaden the horizon of their experience in their particular fields. During 1955 approximately \$814,000 was spent on such training, the major part of which was carried out overseas. In addition 23 serving Government officers went on various courses of study during 1955 under the auspices of the Colombo Technical Co-operation and Colonial Development and Welfare Fund Programmes and other bodies. Nineteen officers of the City Council went overseas under Colombo Plan arrangements.

In the domestic training field, induction courses for administrative, executive and clerical officers continued. Vocational courses for registry officers, for departmental instructors and for clerical officers in financial procedure were initiated. The major emphasis in the programme was developed in the field of Supervisory Training. Advantage was taken of the presence in Singapore during the larger part of 1955 of an I.L.O. expert on Training within Industry when 7 officers were trained as Trainers and 84 programmes and 18 appreciations were completed.

STAFF TRAINING IN SINGAPORE

Type and Description	No. held	Numbers and Grade of Officers attending			Total
		Div. I	Div. II	Div. III	
Induction					
1. Administrative (3 weeks) ...	3	35	—	1	36
2. Administrative (2 weeks) ...	1	2	13	—	15
3. Clerical (1 week) ...	11	—	—	164	164
Vocational					
4. Supervisory (4 hrs.) ...	16	159	—	—	159
5. Supervisory (2 hrs.) ...	2	18	—	—	18
6. Supervisors/Staff Handling (10 hrs.) ...	35	1	185	66	252
7. Supervisors/Instruction (10 hrs.) ...	34	10	170	63	243
8. Supervisors/Method (10 hrs.)	15	1	78	24	103
9. Departmental Instructors (2 weeks) ...	1	1	3	3	7
10. Registry Officers (1 week)	1	—	2	11	13
11. Financial Procedure (2 weeks) ...	1	—	—	15	15
12. Clerical Work Units (3 hrs.)	9	—	—	290	290
Total ...	129	227	451	637	1,315

At the end of 1955 about 98 per cent of Government employees were locally domiciled. In Division I where the recruitment of suitable local candidates is the most difficult their number rose by 75 during 1955. At the end of 1955 for 975 Division I posts, there were 327 locally domiciled and 362 expatriate officers on the permanent establishment of the Singapore Government, 21 officers on loan from other Government and Public Authorities, 88 on contract and 71 employed on temporary terms, leaving 106 posts vacant.

Malayanisation

In order more rapidly to carry out the declared policy of the Government to fill the service with locally domiciled officers, a Commission was appointed on the 11th August, 1955, under the Inquiry Commission Ordinance, 1941, with the following terms of reference:—

- (i) To examine closely the Schemes of Service and the present staffing of all Government departments and agencies with a view to recommending measures to ensure the more rapid systematic and complete Malayanisation of the Public Service;
- (ii) To examine in consultation with all educational authorities and to report on the possibilities including or expanding degree or diploma courses of study in Public Administration and Social Studies with a view to enable the Government to draw on a larger field of graduates for the Public Service;
- (iii) To examine existing training schemes and to make recommendations for the more intensive training of local officers within Government departments and agencies;
- (iv) To make recommendations on abolition terms which might be offered to expatriate officers in the Public Service;
- (v) To consider the Public Services Commission Ordinance and its operation and to make such recommendations as may be deemed necessary;
- (vi) To consider the question of Pan-Malayan departments in their relationship to the policy of Malayanisation.

The inquiry was still proceeding at the close of 1955 and it was expected that the report of the Commission would be available early in 1956.

Staff Relations

Since its inauguration the Singapore Civil Service Joint Council has met six times. The first annual meeting of the Council was held on Friday, 22nd July, 1955 when the Joint Report of the Council was tabled and accepted.

The bulk of the work of the Singapore Civil Service Joint Council on the improvement of staff relations and discussion of matters affecting members of the service was carried out in the General Purposes Committee and the four Grades Committees.

Agreements have been reached with the Staff Side of the Joint Council on various matters affecting the terms and conditions of service of Government officers. Towards the latter part of 1955, a Staff Suggestions Scheme was set up with the object of encouraging members of the Civil Service to take an increasingly active part in contributing ideas which will lead to greater efficiency in the

despatch of Government business. Cash prizes of varying amounts and a letter of commendation are available as awards for those suggestions recommended for acceptance by the Staff Suggestions Scheme Committee.

Agreement has also been reached with the Staff Side on the creation of a Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal to facilitate the settlement of disputes and work is now in progress on the setting up of the agreed panels of Chairman, Official Side Representatives and Staff Side Representatives.

Organisation and Methods

Organisation work during the early part of the year was concerned mainly with finalising the administrative re-adjustment required to conform with the constitutional changes that took place in April. Distribution of work amongst the nine new Ministries was planned on the lines of the Constitutional Commission's recommendations, and transfer made to Ministry offices of responsibilities and files from the Chief Secretary's Office. The necessary staffing of Ministries was worked out and the laws of the Colony were brought under comprehensive review to enable an appropriate transfer of statutory powers to be made to the Ministers on their assumption of office.

Until their contract expired towards the latter part of the year, Messrs. Urwick, Orr and Partners, a firm of organisation consultants from the United Kingdom, continued their work of reviewing office and accountancy procedure in various departments. Substantial economies in time, paper and man-power were effected by these investigations.

As a result of a request made by the Chief Minister the Government of India agreed to send one of its senior officials to Singapore some time during early 1956 to advise and report on organisation and methods in the Government service.

The codification of standing instructions for the conduct of Government business continued with the revision and re-issue of the General Orders of the Colony and of the Chief Secretary's (and later Ministries) Circulars, and the compilation of a *Manual of Administrative Procedure* as a guide for the new Ministries.

XIX

THE ARTS

SINGAPORE IS not only a place where the cultures of all the races meet, but where they flourish. Of the western art-forms, only opera lovers and possibly balletomanes miss the opportunities of watching live performances. Of eastern culture, Indian classical dancing is beginning to gain a widening circle of admirers, whilst exhibitions of Chinese painting and calligraphy, ceramics and jade enable thousands to appreciate the exquisite skill and highly developed artistic sense of the Chinese people.

Societies to bring together enthusiastic supporters of the various art-forms are so many that they may in fact constitute an embarrassment of riches when all these societies eventually seek representation in the Singapore Arts Council. The Council was established in December, with the following founder societies:—

- (a) The China Society;
- (b) The Singapore Art Society;
- (c) The Singapore Arts Theatre;
- (d) The Singapore Camera Club;
- (e) The Singapore Chamber Ensemble;
- (f) The Singapore Musical Society.

MUSIC

Chinese music as played in its traditional forms at festivals and on ceremonial occasions, with instruments hardly changed through the centuries, faces increasing competition with music in the modern idiom, mostly Cantonese and Mandarin songs, culled from music for the theatre and the sound-tracks of the latest films. Orchestrated for various combinations of western instruments, this music is played at cafes, amusement parks and ballrooms as well as broadcast by radio and rediffusion to the home, the workshop and the kampong. However, a large number of Chinese musical

and dramatic societies exist which provide opportunities for playing music more attuned to the scholarly than the popular taste.

To give the uninitiated but interested observer the opportunity to learn something of this particular art-form, the China Society, during December, sponsored a performance of Peking opera by celebrated artists from Hong Kong, in conjunction with the Ping Sheh, a leading local organisation devoted to the specialised study of such opera.

Malay music, whether it is in the form of sentimental folksong such as the *pantun* and *kronchong* or the more vigorous dance form of the *joget* with its infectious rhythm, is more easily adapted to western orchestration and musical taste than perhaps Chinese or Indian music. There is also, on the part of Malay musicians and arrangers, a ready acceptance of western music, to which they give a Malay lyric or which they modify with distinctly Malay rhythms.

As with Chinese music, there exist troupes of musicians playing serious or semi-religious music on ceremonial occasions, performing on instruments of Arabic origin.

Indian music is sometimes chant-like, as where there is an invocation to prayer, and sometimes joyous and purely rhythmic, where it is written for the Indian classical dance. Much modern music, however, has been composed for the films and through these and through gramophone recordings, popular Indian music has a wide following in Malaya.

For those with an eclectic taste, however, the Indian Fine Arts Society occasionally arranges recitals, and during the latter part of January 1955, it was responsible for a Musical Festival spread over three days, in commemoration of the foremost composer of classical Indian music, "Saint Thiagaraja", when a large number of local amateur artists gave recitals of his compositions. During the year also a number of famous Indian instrumentalists and singers from their mother country came to Malaya, and opportunely, were able to broadcast during their stay here.

The interest in western music continues unabated and during 1955 there were a record number of concerts, recitals and broadcasts, both by visiting artists and local musicians. The Singapore Musical Society alone was responsible for over 20 public concerts, excluding those for schoolchildren. Some evidence of the general catholicity of musical taste may be gained from the fact that celebrated pianists and violinists accounted for less than one-third of

these concerts, the remainder consisting of vocal recitals, choral and orchestral concerts, chamber music recitals, lecture-recitals and a few miscellaneous events.

The Singapore Symphony Orchestra, organised by the Society, gave four concerts, in two of which its Choir also took part, under the baton of a visiting conductor, Kurt Woess. The bold experiment was also made to bring music to the people by giving one concert in the Happy World Stadium, with two young Chinese music students each playing separate movements of a popular piano concerto. The Society also sponsored a visit, jointly with the American National Theatre and Academy, by the American 'Symphony of the Air' (the former N.B.C. Symphony Orchestra) in two concerts in the Singapore Badminton Hall. The Society's first piano-forte competition, with Julius Katchen as judge, proved a success, and resulted in the establishment of the 'Katchen Scholarship Fund', a scheme for sending outstanding young local music students to Europe for higher studies.

The Singapore Chamber Ensemble gave two performances of an oratorio and a concert of French music, in addition to several private chamber concerts and two recitals by visiting artists, while the newly-formed Goh Soon Tioe String Orchestra, with a student-violin nucleus, gave two successful concerts of mostly baroque music.

The British Council was active in its sponsorship of local musical endeavour, as of all local efforts in the other fields, and frequently lent its premises for meetings of the organising bodies. During 1955, it was joint sponsor (with a local body) of a music recital by Michael Head and two lecture-recitals by Sir Steuart Wilson. The Council's net inconsiderable collection of films, gramophone records of classical music, drama and poetry-readings, together with its excellent reference library, continues to play an important part in stimulating interest in the arts generally.

The biennial Festival of Music and Drama sponsored by the Singapore Teachers' Union was this year on the musical side limited to choral singing in which 59 entries from 50 schools competed for cups and trophies. The Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus produced the winning choir in a performance that earned high praise. Sponsored also mainly by music teachers, the Junior Symphony Orchestra continued to give opportunities for youngsters to gain valuable practice at ensemble playing and concert experience.

DRAMA

Modern Chinese drama is not essentially different from western drama in its treatment of a play acted throughout in dialogue, and not mimed in any way. All the stock situations and themes are pretty well exploited, but in the farce, the "uninitiated" bridegroom in an old setting continues to evoke mirth and to have a perennial appeal.

In the classical Chinese drama, however, the nearest parallel is western opera, with however more emphasis on "recitative": indeed in Chinese opera, much of the continuity is supplied by words spoken rather than sung but in perfect timing to the music, and heavily accentuated by the traditional percussion instruments. Also in Chinese opera, many other arts are interpolated, and where the situation demands, stately dance sequences are staged, as also simulated battle scenes, which frequently make heavy calls on athletic agility and poise in the wielding of cumbersome ancient weapons and in the exhibition of the Chinese art of self-defence—*Kunthau*. As most Chinese plays of the traditional category are drawn from events in history, period costumes are worn, but the stage itself is mostly bare of curtains or scenery, and orthodox gestures by the actors are taken as symbolic of the actions they are supposed to represent. An informed knowledge of what these mean will, therefore go a long way towards understanding, and enjoyment of Chinese classical drama.

Quite apart from the professional companies playing their repertoires in the different Chinese dialects of Singapore, in theatres and amusement parks or on tour in the rural areas and during festivals, there are also Chinese music clubs which in Singapore are also dramatic associations, staging performances on their anniversaries or on special occasions.

Another art-form which must be mentioned is the Chinese puppet show. There are two main types, Hockchew and Hokkien, operated by a system of strings tied to the joints of the puppet and by fingers thrust into the puppet itself, respectively. As the performers are few and the roles many, the art calls for specialists who not only must possess prodigious memories, but must be adepts at mimicry and be near-ventriloquists. Puppet shows are much less ubiquitous than they were, in the face of more sophisticated entertainment posed by the cinema and 'home movies' in colour, but wherever they are still performed, they attract large

crowds of children of all races, as they are now stream-lined, with microphone and amplifier, to increase the range of the human voice.

Malay drama, or *bangsawan* is also more an operatic than a dramatic form. The dialogue when it occurs is however not spoken in time with the music, and there is therefore more straight acting and less miming, in between arias and dance sequences.

Professional troupes have however not been able to withstand the more popular *joget modern* and the films, and a revival of enthusiasm is therefore necessary. The art of extempore composing of lyrics in the middle of an actual performance survives strongly, however, and exponents of this type of versatility (also to be found in *boria* performances up-country, especially in Penang) have their many admirers. The reason for the comparative decline of *bangsawan* is to be found also in the expensive items for stage costumes and scenery which sometimes can be quite elaborate, depending on the particular court play or period piece enacted.

The Indian Fine Arts Society, with a view to fostering closer understanding and goodwill amongst the large Chinese population in Singapore, staged a dance exhibition by two of these teachers and their pupils in the last week of December, principally for Chinese students. Two performances, however, were also given for the general public.

Indian contribution to drama is of course represented by the Indian classical dance. This is very formalised, but so elaborate and exacting is the art, so full of meaning each gesture of the hand, the head, each varying formation of the fingers—the *mudras*—and each expression on the face and in the eyes, that a whole epic could be presented through the medium of the dance. In Singapore, this art is being brought to a high standard through the presence of dance teachers from India of very high attainments, and occasional recitals by them in heavily and beautifully ornamented costumes make people of other races more conversant with the rich folklore and cultural heritage of Singapore's Indian inhabitants.

During 1955, the three main amateur companies producing plays in the English language, the Stage Club, the Singapore Arts Theatre and the Island Players had to curtail their activities to a great extent. With no theatre yet available, because the Victoria Theatre was under reconstruction, there was considerable difficulty in producing plays. However, one of Shaw's plays was produced at the Victoria Memorial Hall, by the Arts Theatre, as one of its more

ambitious ventures, a proscenium arch being suspended over the stage for the purpose. The play was extremely successful and was favourably received by audiences.

The Arts Theatre also assisted in the presentation, along with Donald Moore Productions, of the Poetry and Drama Recitals by Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson. These artists are undoubtedly paramount in the British theatre, and their performances here were enjoyed by most appreciative audiences. Their interpretations of scenes from Shakespearean and Greek classical drama will long live in the memory of those who attended.

In November 1955, rehearsals started for a three-act operetta which was subsequently produced at the Victoria Memorial Hall (in January 1956). A total cast of 156 was involved and included a large chorus of girls from the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus and a ballet drawn from the Art of Dance Studio. This production by the Island Players with an eastern theme but in the western manner might well herald the beginnings of a 'National Theatre' movement.

The Singapore Teachers' Union, during their Festival of Music and Drama, also sponsored a series of plays by the school pupils for their parents and friends. The best of these plays were then selected for public performances and gained favourable notices in the Press. There is no doubt that the cradle for the future Malayan drama may well lie in these school performances: the acting and directing talents are there and need as inspiration only local themes and situations that have dramatic power and are of universal appeal.

VISUAL ARTS

Out of the constant interchange of cultural values, eastern and western, in Singapore's plural society, a new trend in the visual arts may be identified. The work of younger artists has begun to assume a social-realist character, using as it does the techniques of modern western schools, but with the economy of expression common to the calligraphy and painting of the Chinese tradition. This trend here as elsewhere begins in the schools.

At the same time, the traditional Chinese values remain strong, and continue to be used to interpret the local environment. The leading Chinese painters work freely within the traditions of East and West. This could be gauged during 1955, when the China Society and the Society of Chinese Artists sponsored a number of exhibitions at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, showing the works of local and overseas Chinese painters.

While the Singapore Art Society continues to sponsor mainly western art-forms, its activities for 1955 included exhibitions from Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. Other exhibitions included the fourteenth inter-school art exhibition, a one-man exhibition, and a display of work by students of architecture of the University of Hongkong.

A remarkable feature of the visual arts in Singapore during the post-war period has been the steady increase in local interest in pictorial photography, coupled with considerable improvements in the technical qualities of prints produced by the best exponents in this field. This upward trend continued in 1955 and there have been clear indications of appreciation from abroad of advances made during the last few years. Whereas in 1950 there was only one active Associate of the Royal Photographic Society in Singapore and its environs, in 1955 seven Singapore and four outstation members of the Photographic Society of Singapore received Associateships. A number of senior awards were won by local prints in international exhibitions at centres as widely spread as Chile, Madras, and Semarang.

Singapore's own international exhibition attracted prints from fifteen countries whilst the Pan-Malayan exhibition of the Photographic Society received a record number of entries. A Singapore professional portrait photographer became the first local Associate of the Institute of British Photographers, and another had all four of the prints he submitted hung at the annual exhibition of the Institute.

THE RADIO AS AN EXPANDING ART-FORM

Radio Malaya naturally has to concern itself with the arts and cultural leanings of the four main communal groups in Singapore, and during 1955 continued to promote understanding and appreciation of western classical music as well as the traditional music of the peoples of the Peninsula. Each service for the vernacular languages broadcasts regular concerts and recitals by local artists, often playing their own compositions, whilst music broadcasts to schools and recordings of serious music, often featuring the world's best musicians, help to foster music in the western medium.

There was also great interest in the broadcasts of *bangsawan* or Malay opera music in the Malay programmes. Both ancient and modern Malay music, including western arrangements of Malay songs in the Indonesian style were featured in programme broadcasts.

The Chinese programmes as usual served their varied audiences with music most acceptable to all the major sections, but a particular cultural landmark was a presentation of a series of recordings of Peking opera given by distinguished artists from Hongkong who were visiting Singapore, as referred to above.

As with Malay music, Radio Malaya successfully experimented with presenting western arrangements of Malay and Chinese music and in 1955 this was intensified, and the reactions of listeners were most favourable. These arrangements were made by Radio Malaya staff.

In the field of radio drama, the Department of Broadcasting gave much encouragement to writers and actors from amongst all the major sections of the public. Plays in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil were broadcast at frequent intervals. A number of the plays were written and produced in Singapore while others were local adaptations of foreign plays. In the English language programmes, efforts were made to increase Malayan participation and to produce stories against an Asian, preferably Malayan, background. There is still a regrettable shortage of local writers in English, but it is hoped that by making known and giving opportunities to potential writers, Radio Malaya will get a sufficient response in this field in the not distant future.

Broadcasting can naturally promote music and drama more than the other arts, but by criticism and talks of art appreciation, it can cover a wider field. Weekly programmes covering Chinese and Malay culture were given on the general network of Radio Malaya, and specialists in literature, the ancient dance, painting, sculpture and handicraft came before the microphone to talk about their several arts and the traditions of the Peninsula. In the 'University of the Air' programme, a number of leading authorities on the theatre, western poetry and literature, gave talks and took part in discussions recorded by the B.B.C. in London.

The standard of local performance in light entertainment, which must continue to supply a fair proportion of radio programmes, is obviously rising, and this may be due to the opportunities now available to aspiring performers to hear, on transcription, outstanding artists from other lands. As against this, however, the respect for the ancient cultural traditions of the country survives strongly, and there is no doubt that the radio can play its part in assisting in the emergence of a national school of drama, by developing its special medium, the radio drama, and taking account of these feelings and aspirations.

XX

SPORT

FOR AN ISLAND of its size and population Singapore compares favourably with the most sports-minded centres in the world.

This claim is borne out by the fact that all the major world sports are played in Singapore. Each branch of sport has its own controlling body, nearly all of them affiliated to international federations governing sport, and in recent years there has been vigorous expansion and spectacular improvements in many spheres.

The biggest event held in Singapore during the year was the world badminton championship for the Thomas Cup. The final stages of this competition were played in May and June at the Singapore Badminton Stadium, and Malaya retained the trophy with a 8-1 victory over Denmark in the challenge round.

Singapore had two representatives in the Malayan team—Wong Peng Soon the All-England champion, and Ong Poh Lim who, as in the 1952 challenge round against the United States, scored the winning point for Malaya.

Peng Soon, who has won the All-England title in March for a fourth time, announced his retirement shortly after the Thomas Cup final, and in November turned a professional.

Another international event in Singapore, though not on the same grand lines as the Thomas Cup but important because new ground was being broken, was the South-East Asia amateur boxing championships inaugurated by the Singapore Amateur Boxing Association.

Six countries took part in the tournament and Singapore won the Aw Cheng Chye trophy with 14 points. Burma was second.

In tours overseas, Singapore representatives contributed in large measure to the Malayan Rugby Union's successes in Bangkok and the Malayan Cricket Association's triumphant tour of Hong Kong.

In the domestic field, Singapore maintained their stranglehold on the Malayan athletic championships team title which they won for the seventh time; retained the Chua Choon Long Cup for tennis and regained the Malaya Cup for soccer by beating Kelantan 3-1 in the final which was played at Jalan Besar Stadium.

The hockey season was greatly enlivened by the visit of the Pakistan team. Singapore were beaten by 11 goals to 1 in the first match but were by no means overwhelmed in their next two matches in which the scores were 6 goals to 2 and 4 goals to 1 in favour of Pakistan.

As the year ended, the Singapore Olympic and Sports Council, the co-ordinating body for events such as the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, was going ahead with its plans for sending a team to the Olympic Games at Melbourne in November 1956, aiming at about 70 representatives in athletics, basketball, boxing, cycle racing, hockey, rowing, swimming and water-polo.

ATHLETICS

Athletics in the Colony made more progress and numerous new records both in schools and state meetings were established.

Besides the Singapore national championships and club meets, the Singapore Amateur Athletic Association organised for the first time a floodlight athletic triangular meet between the 1st Fiji Regiment, Civilians and Army.

BADMINTON

Badminton, with soccer, continued to be the most popular sport in Singapore.

The number of clubs and players continued to swell. The Singapore Badminton Association had 90 clubs with more than 4,000 members at the beginning of the year.

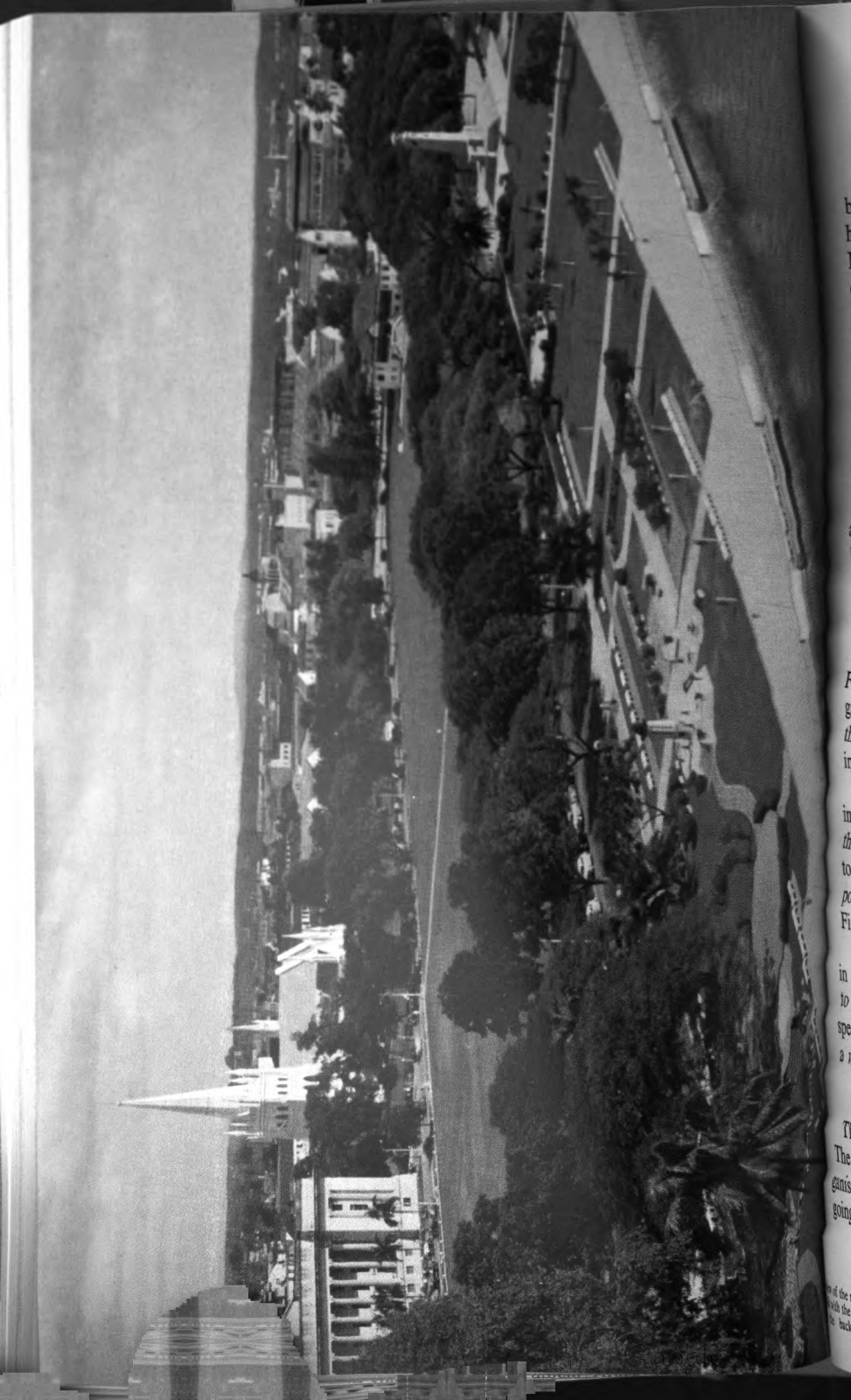
The second successful defence of the Thomas Cup international competition by Malaya was made in the Singapore Badminton Stadium at Guillemard Road in May/June. The event brought Sir George Thomas, President of the International Badminton Federation, to this Colony.

The first sportsman in Malaya to turn professional was a badminton player, Wong Peng Soon, who became a coach to the Singapore Youth Sports Centre.

More than 20 individual and inter-team events were completed in the Singapore Badminton Association's annual tournament.



Top—Mr. Wong Peng Soon, O.B.E., receiving the Thomas Cup from Sir George Thomas, 1st Bt., when Malaya retained the Cup after having beaten Denmark.



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BOXING

Many attempts were made to restore popularity in professional boxing. A number of promotions were staged, but these did not have the desired effect. On the other hand, the Singapore Amateur Boxing Association, celebrated their Silver Jubilee with dinner, and organised an international tournament, to coincide with the celebrations and to spread goodwill among the young men of South-East Asia. Thirty-three boxers from Burma, Hong Kong, Philippines, Ceylon and Australia including 9 Singapore competitors, succeeded in making this a memorable tournament. Singapore won the title with 14 points with Burma second with 1 point less. Officials of these countries attended the inaugural meeting of the South-East Asia Boxing Association.

Also for the first time, an Inter-Services meet between Ceylon and Singapore was held. With a team of 10, the Ceylonese were beaten by 15 points to 12 by Singapore.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Rugby football is played from early September to the end of February and the season 1955/1956 saw a greater interest in the game in Singapore than probably ever before. In no small part this was due to the Fiji Infantry Regiment team who were enjoying their fourth undefeated and farewell season in the country.

The outstanding matches in Singapore were the flood-lit game in October when the Fijians beat the Colony by 31 points to 3; the annual North/South encounter won by the South by 12 points to 3; and an extremely close and exciting match between the Singapore Cricket Club, themselves undefeated by anybody else, and the Fijians, who won in the last few minutes by 29 points to 24.

There are approximately 30 school, club and unit rugby teams in Singapore and the Singapore Society of Rugby Union Referees, to whom are due the thanks of all followers of the game, spectators and players alike, provide referees to some 20 games a week.

CRICKET

The Colony enjoyed another keenly contested season at cricket. The Singapore Cricket Association, with 19 active affiliates, organised two tournaments and won 2 of 3 representative games, going down to Selangor and beating Malacca and Johore.

Thirty-six teams took part in the junior and senior league tournament of the association.

The Colony had provided eight players including the captain in the South side against the North in the annual Malaya Cricket Association North-South match at Kuala Lumpur. The North side eventually won by 3 runs after an exciting finish.

Singapore also provided six players in the Malayan team which successfully toured Hong Kong, winning 3 of the 4 games played there, including the main match, the inter-port fixture against All Hong Kong.

SOCCKER

This is the most popular game in the Colony and draws the biggest crowds to the stadium at Jalan Besar whenever good foreign teams play.

Seven foreign teams played at Jalan Besar and total number of 28 major games were played against visiting or other state teams.

Singapore football had a poor season and lost most of the big games but had the consolation of winning the Malaya Cup when they beat Kelantan in the final at Jalan Besar. It was the first time in 20 years that the Cup final was played at Jalan Besar.

BASKETBALL

Basketball had always been the most popular game among the Chinese speaking population in the Colony, but in recent years other communities have also shown interest.

Two international tournaments were staged last year in September. Singapore won the international triangular tourney against Korea and Taiwan, and also beat these combined teams in a match in aid of the Singapore Youth Sports Centre. In December, Singapore became the South-East Asian champions by winning the Nanyang University Cup from more than ten visiting teams.

Singapore also made two oversea tours at the end of the year. A combined Singapore and Federation team was sent to Formosa to defend the Generalissimo Cup and another took part in the King of Cambodia Cup in Phnom Penh. Singapore lost in both tournaments.

HOCKEY

Singapore has seen some of the world's best hockey players in action last year, being Olympic representatives among the two tourist teams, Indian Wanderers from New Delhi and Pakistan

Hockey Federation, who visited the Colony and were entertained by the Singapore Hockey Association. Playing three games against the Pakistan side, Singapore lost by 1-11, 2-6 and 1-4, and in one game against Indian Wanderers they lost 0-6.

In no way discouraged by these defeats, and failures against the Federation of Malaya as well, Singapore Hockey Association is sending a team to the Olympic Games at Melbourne.

Yachting, polo, golf, rowing, tennis, table-tennis and cycle and motor racing are other very popular forms of sport.

XXI

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND NATURAL HISTORY

LANDSCAPE AND CLIMATE

THE COLONY OF SINGAPORE consists of Singapore Island itself, a number of adjacent islets, and Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, and until November 1955 included the Cocos-Keeling Islands as well. The Cocos-Keeling Islands were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Australian Government on 23rd November, 1955.

SINGAPORE ISLAND

Singapore Island is situated off the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula to which it is joined by a causeway carrying a road and railway. The straits between the Island and mainland are about three-quarters of a mile wide. The Island is some 26 miles from east to west and 14 miles from north to south and about 224.5 square miles in area, including the adjacent islets. The City of Singapore is situated on the southern side of the Island, in latitude $1^{\circ} 17'$ North and longitude $103^{\circ} 50'$ East. It is shown in the map at the end of this book.

Three structural units, each with a distinct surface expression, combine to form the Island of Singapore. In the centre and north coarse-textured, granite-like rocks give rise to low, rounded undulations averaging about 200 feet in height, while a range of hills, including Bukit Timah (581 feet), Bukit Gombak (437 feet), Bukit Panjang (434 feet) and Bukit Mandai (422 feet), forms a raised western rim to this rolling countryside. In the west and south of the Island shales and sandstones form a succession of scarps and vales; the eastern third is occupied by a platform of poorly consolidated sands and gravels, with its surface at about 100 feet. All three of these structures are frequently masked by

nds and clays laid down by the present-day river system, while und the coast there are also deposits of mangrove mud and coral rock. The Island's river system has been considerably modified by artificial means. The headwaters of three of the main rivers, the Kallang, Whampoa and Seletar have been impounded to form reservoirs, while in most closely built-up areas streams have been confined within concrete-lined channels. In other places subterranean pipes have been laid down to relieve flooding, or lateral channels have been cut at the edge of floodplains to draw off storm-water from valley centres.

Owing to its proximity to the Equator the Island's climate is characterised by uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. Although the days are hot and, on account of the high temperature, somewhat oppressive, the nights are usually cool enough for refreshing sleep. The average maximum temperature for the whole year is 87° F., the average minimum 75° F.; the highest temperature recorded was 93° F., and the lowest 71° F. The seasonal movement of tropical air masses to and fro across the Equator causes a twice yearly reversal of the prevailing wind directions, so that winds tend to be southerly from May to October and northerly from November to April, the so-called south-west and north-east monsoons. There are no well-marked dry and wet seasons and rain falls throughout the year. December is usually the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September are normally drier months with between 6½ and 7 inches each. In December 1955, the recorded rainfall of 11.09 inches was just a little above average. In January there was abnormally high rainfall of 21.61 inches which was approximately twice the average rainfall for this month. March was the driest month with a rainfall of 1.90 inches, the lowest for this month since 1918 when 1.33 inches were recorded. The average annual rainfall is about 95 inches, and rain falls on an average one day in two.

Early records make it clear that the soils of the Island were originally red earths and laterites, but erosion consequent upon forest clearance has resulted in the washing away of the surface layers of the soil. Elsewhere agricultural and drainage operations have completely altered the character of the soils. In fact most of those under cultivation are a creation of the last century and a half.

The natural covering of forest and marsh which clothed the Island almost in its entirety when the British arrived has long

since disappeared, very largely as a result of the shifting cultivation practised by Chinese gambier and pepper planters in the nineteenth century. Today remnants of the original vegetation survive only on Bukit Timah and possibly in some of the more remote mangrove swamps. Over the rest of the Island the natural vegetation has been replaced by buildings and by cultivation, except for the 8,000 acres of the water catchment area which is under unproductive secondary forest, or belukar.

More than half the Island is in some form of cultivation. By area plantation crops are the most important, notably rubber, and coconuts, which together occupy about seven-tenths of the total cultivated area. The largest continuous tracts of rubber are on the granite in the centre of the Island, but there is also a fair sprinkling of plantations in both the eastern and western regions. Coconuts occupy something over a fifth of the cultivated area, mainly on the loose, well-aerated soils of the eastern platform. Many of the palms in the coastal belt from Siglap to Changi are the direct descendants of those plantations established by agricultural pioneers in the middle of the last century. Small-holder agriculture on the Island is of two types. On the one hand there are widely scattered holdings of mixed cultivation, and the farm-house of vertical wooden boards on a thin cement foundation roofed with attap and set amid tapioca, pineapples, bananas, tobacco, pepper, coconuts, fruits and vegetables, is one of the characteristic features in the landscape of rural Singapore. On the other hand there is the highly specialised production of leafy vegetables, mostly in low-lying areas peripheral to the City of Singapore, and particularly in the middle Kallang valley. This is as intensive an example of commercialised agriculture as any in the world. Farms average six-tenths of an acre, and the agricultural population in parts reaches the astounding figure of 7,000 per square mile. To the eye the landscape here is a mosaic of rectangular, cambered vegetable beds bordered by access paths with attap houses, small ponds and clumps of fruit trees dotted throughout at irregular intervals.

Villages on the Island are of a fairly uniform pattern. Most are elongated settlements, with a few Chinese shops fronting on to a main road and the rest of the houses scattered irregularly among mixed gardens. Coastal settlements are usually Malay fishing villages. The only region wholly devoid of habitation is the water catchment area.

More than three-quarters of the total population of the Island live within the municipal area of Singapore City, where the urban landscape, including the predominantly rectangular street-plan,

owes much to the foresight of Sir Stamford Raffles' Town Committee in the early 1820s and to the practical genius of G. D. Coleman in the 1830s. The sharply defined racial and economic groupings which originated with that Committee still persist despite a strong tendency towards occupational specialisation. The Big Town, as the Chinese call their quarter to the south of Singapore River, and the Little Town to the north of the river, form the core of the City, and except for large offices and business houses immediately south of the river, comprise narrow streets bordered by shop-houses. Beyond the Kallang River are the residential suburbs of Geylang and Siglap. Here too the streets are laid out rectangularly but the housing unit is the garden bungalow inhabited typically by a Eurasian or a Chinese family. The chief European residential suburb is that of Tanglin to the north-west of the town where the failure of spice plantations in the fifties and sixties of last century left a large area of dissected country-side available for housing. In recent years there has been a considerable extension of ribbon development along all the main roads leading out of the town, while there are several groups of temporary board-and-attap dwellings on the outskirts of the built-up area. The Naval Base on the north coast, and the Army and Royal Air Force installations at Tengah, Seletar and Changi, are largely self-contained settlements, almost garden-cities, and are to a great extent insulated from the economic and social life of the Island.

All transport services focus on Singapore City, whence radiates a fan of main roads. These are linked by cross-ties of secondary roads, and, except in the water catchment area and the extreme west of the Island, the interstices are penetrated by dirt jeep-tracks and bridle paths. The Malayan Railway crosses the Island from Singapore City to Woodlands, where it is linked by means of the Causeway over the Johore Strait with the Federation system. To the west of the City there are 2 miles of wharves with a low-water draught of more than 33 feet, while to the east is the Paya Lebar International Airport which was officially opened in August, and replaced the old civil airport built on land reclaimed from the Kallang estuary.

ADJACENT ISLETS

The forty odd nearby islets present an appearance more or less approximating to what Singapore Island must have looked like in the past. The islands of Tekong and Ubin are cultivated in small-holdings though less intensively than Singapore Island. Most

of the islets to the south are sparsely populated with Malays though little if any of the original vegetation remains. On the other hand the industrialised islands known as Pulau Brani, Pulau Bukom and Pulau Blakang Mati are thickly populated and urbanised. All the islets to the south are surrounded by reefs and the waters between have numerous shoals.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND THE COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS

Christmas Island is situated in the eastern part of the Indian Ocean, about 190 miles south of Java Head and 530 miles east of the Cocos-Keeling Islands (approximately $10^{\circ} 30' \text{ S.}$ and $150^{\circ} 40' \text{ E.}$). Its area is only 64 square miles and it is composed entirely of coal limestone. Its only economic importance is as a source of mixed phosphates.

The Cocos-Keeling Islands lie about 600 miles south-west of Java Head and 530 miles from Christmas Island (approximately $11^{\circ} 80' \text{ S.}$ and $90^{\circ} 50' \text{ E.}$). The group consists of an atoll of about 25 islets surrounding a lagoon, together with the single, isolated island of North Keeling some 15 miles further north. Only three of these islets have settlements of any importance, Home Island with its predominantly Malay village, Direction Island with a cable relay-station and West Island on which there is an air-strip used as a link in the air route across the Indian Ocean from Australia to South Africa. The only commercial product of the group is copra.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

The Surveyor-General, Malaya, is responsible for the topographical survey of the Colony. The most recent map of Singapore is the 1953 provisional edition in 12 sheets on a scale of 1/25,000. Copies may be obtained from the Chief Surveyor, Singapore. Forty square miles of this map were revised from 1953 air photography and checked in the field.

FAUNA

Initially the fauna of Singapore Island must have been very similar to that of the wooded lowlands of southern Malaya, but the development of the last hundred years has impoverished it considerably. Some of the mangrove remains, but the sandy stretches of the coast are no longer free and undisturbed. In the interior the original forest has been destroyed almost completely.

In general the birds and mammals now living wild on the Island are restricted to the hardier and less retiring of the denizens of scrub woodland, small grassy areas and the forest edge. Less than a hundred years ago, at the time of A. R. Wallace's visits between 1845 and 1862, 'there were always a few tigers roaming about Singapore and they killed, on an average, a man every day.' The last authentic record of a local tiger was of a beast shot in 1924. The sambar probably disappeared at about the same time, and the little barking deer during the recent war; the banded leaf-monkey, the pig-tailed macaque or *běrok* and the wild pig, all of which were certainly present until after the turn of the century, have probably died out in the last 20-30 years. There are always a few wild pigs in the broken country on the west of the Island, and probably some in the water catchment area, but these are almost certainly animals that have escaped from domestication or, in the case of the former locality, crossed the Johore Strait. There are still true wild pig and the *běrok* on some of the small islets south of Singapore, and it is known that the pig swim from island to island.

Less than 50 mammals are still known to be present on the Island in a wild state, and even these consist largely of rats (6 species), squirrels (7 species) and bats (about 24 species). The latter include the so-called flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) a large, fruit-eating bat with a wing-span of nearly 5 feet. In addition there is a tree shrew (*Tupaia glis*) and a house or musk shrew (*Suncus murinus*) both of which are very common in their respective habitats, and a monkey, the long-tailed macaque or *Kěra* (*Macaca irus*) which is present wild in the Botanic Gardens in some numbers. This small selection covers all the mammals known to the great majority of the people on the Island.

The bird fauna of the Island is similarly restricted. About 156 different kinds of bird are almost certainly resident here, while a further 125 species have been recorded as strays or winter visitors.

The common birds are mostly types found in grassland, open orchards and light woodlands on the mainland. The yellowvented bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*), the magpie robin (*Copsychus saulari*), the white-breasted kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), the black-naped oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*), the longtailed tailor-bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) and the yellowbreasted sunbird (*Leptocoma jugularis*) are plentiful on the Island. On the other hand such families as the pheasants, hornbills, trogons and whistling thrushes are completely unrepresented. Human interference, or at least the proximity of settlements, has probably had at least as much to

do with their disappearance as the extensive deforestation. Several woodland birds are known from the nearby island of Ubin and even from the islets to the south though they are no longer present on Singapore Island itself.

About 40 of the 125 non-resident birds occur regularly and in some numbers, either as visitors throughout the northern winter or as passage migrants: some, mostly shore birds, are very plentiful during the period of their stay here. In many respects the numbers of migrants and winter visitors are disappointingly small, both in terms of species and of individuals. It seems that the great movements of birds along the shores of the Malay Peninsula travel past to the east and west of Singapore, and miss the Island itself.

Reptiles are well represented. Of the non-marine forms 4 tortoises, between 15 and 20 kinds of lizard and over 40 kinds of snake are probably still found. The commonest tortoise is the spiny hill tortoise (*Geomyda spinosa*) which is often encountered in the catchment area jungle. The most noticeable of the lizards are the little house geckos or *chichaks*, which amuse newcomers to the tropics by their ability to walk upside down on the ceiling. So far from retreating before civilisation these lizards flourish and multiply in houses, whose electric lights attract insects and furnish them with a copious supply of food. In gardens and along roadsides the flying lizard (*Draco volans*) is quite often seen gliding on outstretched membranes from one tree to another and the crested tree-lizard (*Calotes cristatellus*), often miscalled 'chameleon', is not uncommon. Malaya's largest lizard, the common monitor (*Varanus salvator*) is still found in the less densely populated districts, and occasionally raids chicken-runs in the rural areas.

Of the surprisingly large total of snakes, 6 are venomous but only 2 of these dangerously so. These are the 2 cobras, *Naja naja* the black cobra and *Naja hannah* the hamadryad or king cobra. The latter is the largest poisonous snake in the world and in July 1950 a specimen of 15 feet 7 inches was captured in the catchment area near the Island Golf Club. The black cobra is by no means rare, but extremely few cases of its bite are reported and it can be said with confidence that in Singapore (and indeed throughout Malaya) the hazard of snake-bite need not be taken very seriously. Of the harmless snakes the house snake (*Lycodon aulicus*) is the most frequently encountered and the beautiful black, green-spotted paradise tree-snake (*Chrysopelea paradisi*) is also very common. Pythons (*Python reticulatus*) are quite often captured but are usually not of any great size.

Frogs and toads are present in some variety. The common Asiatic toad (*Bufo melanostictus*) is abundant and furnishes students of biology at the University with an introduction to the technique of dissection. The authors of the bellowing chorus that arises from swampy places in rainy weather are the so-called bull-frogs (*Caloula pulchra*). This species is said not to be native to Singapore but to have been introduced shortly before the beginning of the present century.

A considerable fauna of fresh water fish inhabits the Island's ponds and streams, and especially the catchment area reservoirs. Many of them, by reason of their beauty and diminutive size, are favourites of aquarium keepers. Others are of interest from their peculiar habits; among these the celebrated climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus*) is worthy of mention. This fish possesses an accessory air-breathing organ which enables it to live for quite long periods out of the water provided it can keep its body and gill-chambers moist. In rainy weather climbing perches will deliberately leave the water and make their way across country in search of new dwelling places; in this way newly made ponds soon become colonised by them. One small fish, *Rasbora altona*, is quite common in the waters of the catchment area but has never been taken in any locality outside Singapore Island.

Of the terrestrial invertebrate animals little can be said beyond the fact that they are extremely numerous and varied. This is particularly true of the insects, and the catchment area jungle affords a rich hunting ground for the casual butterfly collector and the serious entomologist alike. A few of the invertebrates are noxious. The sting of the large scorpion (*Heterometrus*) and the poisonous bite of the big centipede (*Scolopendra*) are painful and severe but not to be regarded as dangerous. The giant snail (*Achatina fulica*) is a native of Africa but must now be accepted as a conspicuous, albeit unwelcome, member of the Malayan fauna. Introduced probably via Mauritius and Ceylon, it first made its appearance in Malaya about 1911. It is now a widely spread pest of gardeners and vegetable growers throughout South-East Asia and has even reached some of the islands of the tropical Pacific.

In conclusion mention must be made of the rich fauna found around the Island's coasts. Fish, molluscs, crustaceans and many other animals occur in great variety, particularly as a number of distinct littoral environments are represented. These include gently shelving sandy and muddy shores and extensive mangrove swamps.

FLORA AND HORTICULTURE

When Raffles landed in Singapore the Island was covered with forest. Much of this has now been destroyed and plants, which were collected here 60 years ago, have disappeared from the flora. They include a few endemic species which were peculiar to the Island and a greater number which do occur elsewhere. Some 50 species of orchids which used to grow in the mangrove swamps can no longer be found. A few remaining remnants of the original vegetation are now conserved as Nature Reserves, which are administered by a statutory Board of Management, established in 1951, of which the Director of the Botanic Gardens is the *ex-officio* Chairman. Only a comparatively small area of the 9,000 acres of Nature Reserves, which are set aside for the propagation, protection and preservation of the indigenous fauna and flora, consist of primary vegetation; much of it is secondary, but it is hoped, that, with the prohibition of settlement and tree felling, regeneration will advance.

The Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, covering 163 acres on the highest hill on the island, is one of the most important areas of preserved vegetation in the world. It has been a botanical collecting ground for more than a century and the first-known specimens of many Malayan plants were collected here. It is the only place in Singapore where many indigenous species still survive. It consists of primary tropical rain forest with many trees 50–70 metres high and for the greater part it has not been cut over or damaged. It is only 7 miles from the centre of the town, while the next nearest area of virgin forest is on Gunong Pulai about 45 miles away in Johore. In the water catchment area, adjoining Bukit Timah, there is fresh-water swamp forest and peat swamp forest; and on the south-west and north coasts of the Island are areas of mangrove forest. All these areas are now Nature Reserves.

The natural vegetation is typical of a humid tropical climate in which seasonal changes are slight. Trees provide the dominant feature and green the dominant colour. Except in the mangroves, where because of the peculiar environment there are comparatively few kinds of plants, the lowland forest is one of bewildering complexity and is richer in plant species than other types of vegetation found elsewhere in the world. The forest is evergreen and is composed entirely of broad-leaved trees with very few conifers. It is never bare of leaves and those trees which are deciduous shed their leaves and acquire a new set rapidly, never standing leafless

for more than a few days. Because seasonal changes are so slight there is no burst of flowering as occurs in climates with a cold or dry season. In fact very few flowers are seen at any time. The forest floor is covered with leaf mould, in which tree seedlings, ferns and a few herbs grow sparsely. Epiphytic plants are abundant, mostly orchids and ferns, which grow mainly on the upper branches of trees in order to reach the light. They are not parasitic, but have no connection with the ground. Grasses and sedges are plants of the open and only come in after the forest has been cleared.

Outside the urban areas and Nature Reserves, wherever the soil is suitable, rubber, coconuts, fruit trees and vegetables are cultivated. On the poorer eroded and exhausted soils secondary scrub (*bělukar*) is found, in which *lalang* is usually the dominant grass, but even here plants of interest, such as the pitcher plants, occur. With the opening up of large areas and the destruction of natural vegetation which has gone on for many years, alien plants, including many weeds of American and African origin, have become established and are now a familiar feature of the vegetation. The number of indigenous plants on Singapore Island is about 2,000, which is greater than the number of native species in the entire British flora.

The Botanic Gardens, situated in the Tanglin area, are a popular public park and are also a centre of research for Malaysian botany and tropical horticulture. The present Gardens of 85 acres were founded on their present site in 1859, although there were earlier Gardens founded by Raffles on Fort Canning in 1822. Apart from purely decorative plants, the Botanic Gardens maintain collections of native and exotic plants of interest to the student and the botanist. It is manifestly impossible to show in a limited area anything more than a small sample of the Malaysian flora, which contains between 20,000 and 30,000 species, as well as related plants from other countries. Nevertheless, the number of trees, shrubs, climbers and other perennial plants growing in the Gardens and in the 11 acres of original forest preserved in the Garden's jungle is in the order of 3,000 species, and this does not include horticultural varieties and annuals. In addition to the more general collections, the Gardens has specialised in individual collections of certain families of plants, notably palms, bamboos, orchids, gingers and ferns. These are added to by collections within Malaysia and by exchange with institutions elsewhere. During the year a weekly exhibition has been staged for seven common Singapore plants,

giving their scientific, English and Malay names and some notes on each plant. This has proved of interest to teachers and students and to the public.

It was in the economic section of the Botanic Gardens, now the site of the University of Malaya, that the pioneer work on Para rubber and other economic plants was carried out. This led to the foundation of Malaya's rubber industry. For many years these Gardens were the sole source of planting material of many crops in Malaya, and seeds and plants were distributed from them to all parts of the tropics.

The study of the Malaysian flora is undertaken by the staff of the Botanic Gardens. A large herbarium of plants from Malaya and adjacent territories has been built up over many years and contains some 400,000 specimens. The collection is added to constantly by the staff themselves and by material acquired by exchange from other botanical institutions. So much new material and new knowledge has accumulated since the publication of Ridley's *Flora of the Malay Peninsula* in 1922-5, so that it is now out of date and a revised *Flora of Malaya* is being prepared. The first volume of the new *Flora*, namely *Orchids of Malaya* by R. E. Holttum, was published in 1953. In Ridley's *Flora* the orchids were described in less than 230 pages; the new volume has 750 pages and describes about 800 species of indigenous Malayan orchids, as well as many cultivated species and hybrids. The second volume on the *Ferns of Malaya* by the same author was published in 1955 and this work is the result of some 30 years' research on this interesting group by Dr. Holttum, together with new ideas on their classification. In its 643 pages some 650 species of Malayan ferns are described. Both volumes are designed to be of use to the field naturalist and the gardener, as well as to the specialist. Two other works published by past members of the Gardens' staff which can be thoroughly recommended to the amateur interested in the plants of the country are Corner's *Wayside Trees of Malaya* (2nd edition, 1952) and Henderson's *Malayan Wild Flowers* (1951-4). Plants do not recognise political boundaries and research on the plants of Malaya involves the study of related plants from the Malaysian region as a whole. The *Flora Malesiana*, edited by Dr. van Steenis of Leiden and financed by the Indonesian Government, which is being published contemporaneously with our local *Flora* is therefore of considerable importance. Two volumes have been published to date and the staff of the Singapore Botanic Gardens is collaborating and will write accounts of certain families for it.

Technical papers dealing with the flora and related subjects are published in the *Gardens' Bulletin, Singapore*. Publication of revisions of groups of plants is a necessary preliminary to the publication of the *Revised Flora*, but such revisions are cast in a more detailed and more technical form than that suitable for a *Flora*, which must be designed to be intelligible to the laymen as well as to the professional. Critical study of the great amount of material collected in the past 30 years or so by the Gardens and the Forest Departments of the Federation of Malaya and Borneo, which is necessary for these revisions, has revealed large numbers of undescribed species, as well as species of neighbouring regions which have not yet been recorded from Malaya. So rich is the Malayan flora that undescribed species are still being found in the small patches of forest on Bukit Timah and in the Botanic Gardens.

The cultivation and propagation of native and introduced plants of horticultural merit or economic interest is studied at the Botanic Gardens and every year many plants are introduced for trial. Gardening in Singapore is not easy. The soils are poor and the seasonless climate makes it difficult to find plants which will flower regularly and provide colour in gardens. Methods of growing plants in beds and pots must be devised with will suit local conditions and these are very different from those in temperate countries or regions which enjoy a cold or dry season in the year. Nearly all the garden plants grown in Singapore have originated in countries other than Malaya, which has little to offer in this respect. It is, therefore, an essential function of the Botanic Gardens to introduce as many garden plants as possible, so that people can see what is available and what will suit their own gardens. One of the best methods of providing sufficient colour in the gardens is to use flowering shrubs, more especially those which will flower continuously or at short intervals. One such successful introduction has been the New Guinea creeper (*Mucuna bennettii*), which produces striking trusses of flame-coloured flowers several times a year.

The breeding of new varieties of plants suitable for local cultivation offers great scope and has been actively pursued at the Botanic Gardens for many years. The programme of breeding orchid hybrids, begun in 1929, has produced very successful and spectacular results. The aim of this work is two-fold, namely, to produce new hybrids of horticultural merit and commercial worth and to investigate the relationship between the various groups of orchids. One cross made by a local enthusiast and raised at the

Botanic Gardens produced *Vanda Tan Chay Yan*, which was awarded a First Class Certificate of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1954 and is considered to be one of the best *Vanda* hybrids bred anywhere in the world. Some 2,600 orchid crosses have now been made at the Gardens and every year new hybrids are coming into bloom. New crosses are continually being made, both in the Gardens and by local growers, a few of whom have mastered the technique of raising seedlings in flasks under sterile conditions. The principal genera used for crossing are *Arachnis*, *Dendrobium*, *Renanthera*, *Spathoglottis* and *Vanda*. A difficulty has been found in breeding new hybrids using *Aranda* (*Vanda* × *Arachnis*), but a few crosses are now being raised.

The cultivation of hybrid orchids is now very popular in Singapore and each year plants of higher quality are displayed at the annual Flower Show, both by amateur and professional growers, who have every reason to be proud of the high standard they have attained. Orchids grown in the Botanic Gardens were sent periodically to Malaya House in London for display in a window facing on to Trafalgar Square, and very favourable comments have been received on this exhibition. Orchid flowers from the Gardens have also been sent to the fortnightly shows of the Royal Horticultural Society in London, and to Karachi and Sydney.

Experiments in improving the culture medium and accelerating the growth of the orchid seedlings in the first stage in the flasks was continued, as was the work on the manuring of the young seedlings and the cultivation and propagation of the mature plants. The entire orchid collection at the Gardens was moved from the Director's garden to a special orchid enclosure on Lawns P and R, which has a wire-mesh security fence with double barbed-wire apron. The latter is electrified to keep out the monkeys. The new site is proving better than the old one and there is now room for expansion.

The cultivation of cacti and other succulents is becoming increasingly popular in Singapore. Some of the larger species grow and flower in the open in well-drained beds, while the smaller species are grown in pots as house decorations. The latter must be sheltered from the rain and given special treatment. Some 400 species of succulents have now been collected and are grown at the Botanic Gardens.

Singapore has a flourishing Gardening Society with some 250 members and its monthly meetings are well attended. At these meetings emphasis is placed on practical instruction. The Society holds its annual Flower Show in April and the standard of blooms

and plants exhibited is high. The Malayan Nature Society has a Singapore branch, which arranges meetings and excursions. This Society and the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Society publish quarterly journals.

Fortnightly Sunday band concerts in the Botanic Gardens were resuscitated early in the year. They have proved very popular and are attended by large crowds.

Mr. H. N. Ridley, C.M.G., F.R.S., Director of the Botanic Gardens, 1888-1912, celebrated his hundredth birthday on the 10th December, 1955. Mr. Ridley will always be remembered for his pioneer rôle in the founding of Malaya's rubber industry and for his gargantuan contribution to our knowledge of the country's natural history. In honour of the occasion an exhibition was held at the Botanic Gardens, which were floodlit for a week and band concerts were held. The floodlighting achieved some very beautiful effects and was much appreciated.

XXII

HISTORY OF SINGAPORE

LITTLE IS known of the early history of Singapore. It is thought, however, that a prosperous commercial centre, known as Singapura, may have flourished here in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Its downfall is said to have been brought about in 1377 when the Javanese invaded and destroyed it.

Singapore was forgotten for about 440 years and, when in the year 1819 Sir Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company realised its potentialities, it was covered with thick jungle and mangrove swamp, with a few inhabitants living near the river mouth.

Raffles, as Lieutenant-Governor of the moribund settlement of Bencoolen in Sumatra, was commissioned, at his own suggestion, by the Governor-General of India to establish a trading centre in Riau or Johore. With his sound knowledge of local territory and conditions, he decided that Singapore would be a far better place for a settlement and an entrepôt.

On the Company's behalf he made an agreement with the Temenggong of Johore, subordinate of the Sultan *de jure* of Johore-Lingga, Tengku Hussein, for the founding of a British settlement here and for the exclusion from the territory of all other powers. The date of this agreement was the 6th February, 1819.

From the outset Raffles insisted that Singapore should be a free port if it were to be assured of prosperity. In this he met with considerable bitterness and opposition. The Dutch protested forcibly against the interloper. The Governor of Penang, Colonel Bannerman foresaw the blackest disaster. The British East India Company directors were apprehensive and stated their objections to the Governor-General of India, Lord Hastings. No decision was taken on these for some time and meanwhile Singapore became an attractive centre both for immigrants and for trade. The population which had amounted to about 150 when Raffles landed,

had risen to over 10,000 by 1824, and trade, hitherto non-existent, had by 1820 far exceeded that of Malacca. In 1822 its value was about \$8½ millions and in the next year this had increased by about \$5 millions.

By the Treaty of London, 17th March, 1824 the Dutch withdrew their objections to the occupation of Singapore and ceded Malacca, while Britain gave up the Company's possessions in Sumatra. At the same time British sovereignty in Singapore was placed on a sound juridical basis by a treaty with the Sultan and Temenggong on 2nd August, 1824 which ceded to the East India Company the Island of Singapore in full sovereignty and property.

Meanwhile, in 1822-3, Raffles had paid his last visit to Singapore and, working with his usual titanic energy, had endowed it with a magistracy, a code of laws and a police force, trading regulations and a town-planning scheme, and, as he hoped, an institution which would make Singapore the intellectual as well as the commercial entrepôt of South-East Asia. In 1824 he returned to England where he died in 1826, not yet 45.

In the succeeding years the phenomenal progress of the Settlement showed no sign of diminution. The trade figures were £2,610,440 in 1825, £13,252,175 in 1864. The population which at the first census in 1824 numbered 10,683, had risen by 1860 to 81,734 of all nationalities, but with a significant majority (over 50,000) of Chinese. Singapore had completely overshadowed its sister settlements of Malacca and Penang, with which it had been incorporated in 1826 as the Straits Settlements, and it was natural that the seat of government be transferred from Penang to Singapore in 1832. Singapore was doing well but, thought its inhabitants, could do better: and the drag on its further progress was the fact that it was an outlying possession of a distant government in India, which did not consult local interests.

The Straits Settlements had been put under the Presidency of Bengal in 1830 but transferred to the direct control of the Governor-General in 1851. It was all one to the leading inhabitants of Singapore: they disliked government from India and in the fifties their discontent became vociferous. They complained in general that the supreme government sacrificed the interests of the Straits Settlements to those of India: in particular that it interfered with the currency to the detriment of trade, that it sought continuously to infringe the sacred principle of the 'free port' by revenue-producing devices, and above all that by its policy of strict non-intervention with the Malay States of the hitherland, it held back

the Singapore merchants from developing a large territory of great potential wealth but now so sunk in irremediable anarchy as to render regular trade impossibly hazardous.

The Government of India, for its part, was quite willing to let its wayward dependencies depart in peace. Prosperous the Settlements might be, but so low was the taxation that they were actually a burden on the Indian Government. Moreover since the abolition of the Company's monopoly of the China trade in 1834 India was no longer interested in the Straits: it was difficult to find suitable officials for the territory and it was felt at the time that in the event of war with a European naval power it would be difficult to protect Singapore against attack. So reasoned the Viceroy, Lord Canning, in 1859, and in 1860 the transfer was agreed in principle. To settle the details was another matter. In addition to the parties to the transfer, the War Office and the Treasury were involved, and it was not until 10th August, 1866, that an act was passed to transfer the control of the Straits Settlements from the Indian Government to the Colonial Office. On 1st April, 1867, the transfer was formally effected and the Straits Settlements became a Crown Colony.

The proximate result was the dropping of the policy of non-intervention and the inauguration of a policy of protection and guidance in the native states of the peninsula which in a few decades converted an unhealthy, sparsely-populated and anarchic country into the most prosperous and best developed of all Britain's tropical dependencies. In this development Singapore played a primary part and in the resultant prosperity the town had its share. It was in Singapore that European processes of tin smelting were introduced in 1887 with the result that in 1939 Singapore smelted more tin than England and Holland combined. It was in Singapore and in Perak that *Hevea Brasiliensis* was successfully cultivated in 1877; it was the Director of Singapore's Botanic Gardens, H. N. Ridley, who in 1891, first exhibited cultivated rubber to the public, and though Singapore grew comparatively little rubber itself, it became the chief rubber export centre of the world and in 1918 out of a total trade of \$512,229,753 the value of rubber exported was \$153,455,920. Population followed prosperity in a continuous upward curve; a century after Raffles' landing the population within the municipal limits was estimated at 305,000; in 1931 it was 559,945 of whom 74.9 per cent were Chinese. In mid-1955 the total population of Singapore was estimated at 1,212,588 of whom 76 per cent were Chinese.

With justice could the Singapore Chamber of Commerce refer in 1919 to 'the wonderous growth of the trade of the Port'. In that respect Raffles' expectations had been fulfilled completely. But in two major respects his aspirations remain ungratified.

His strategic eye had not failed to perceive the key position of Singapore or the vital line of trade and communications which runs between China and the West. Singapore, he wrote, will become the Malta of the East. But prior to the 1914-18 war little resemblance was apparent. In 1873 indeed Singapore was described as 'defenceless' and though the adjacent islands of Blakang Mati and Pulau Brani were subsequently fortified, the garrison of Singapore in 1914 consisted of no more than the equivalent of two battalions, while from the naval point of view it was no more than a port of call and coaling station.

The emergence of Japan as the third naval power in the world fundamentally altered the strategic situation. Japan had hitherto been an ally but the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was not renewed in 1921. The protection of the Indian Ocean and of the antipodes necessitated the presence of a battle-fleet in eastern waters: a battle-fleet required a naval base with adequate docking facilities and there existed none such from Malta to Pearl Harbour. So in 1921 the Imperial Conference decided that Singapore should become, as Raffles had foreseen, the Malta of the East. By 1938 a first class naval base had been constructed with graving and floating docks to accommodate the largest capital ships. An air base was established, the garrison multiplied and the peaceful commercial city was transformed into a fortress. But Singapore differs from Malta in one essential particular, in that it has an extensive hinterland from which it is separated only by a narrow strait. Lacking naval and air support the fortress succumbed to a Japanese land attack in February 1942. For 3½ years Singapore, under the alias of Syonan, remained perforce under Japanese rule. On 5th September, 1945, the forces of South-East Asia Command under Lord Louis (now Earl) Mountbatten, fresh from their great victories over the Japanese in Burma, bloodlessly recovered Singapore, largely intact but shabby and despoiled, and with its people starving.

For almost seven months Singapore remained under the British Military Administration, but civil government was resumed on 1st April, 1946, with Singapore no longer part of the Straits Settlements, but constituted as a separate Colony, together with Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands. Penang and Malacca became

part of the new Malayan Union (now the Federation of Malaya and Labuan became part of North Borneo. It had, however, been clearly stated in a White Paper submitted to Parliament in January 1946 containing the proposals for these constitutional changes that it was 'no part of the policy of His Majesty's Government to preclude or prejudice in any way the fusion of Singapore and the Malayan Union in a wider union at a later date should it be considered that such a course were desirable'.

Singapore's development in democratic government has continued steadily. In March 1948, the first elections for the Legislative Council took place when six members were elected by popular vote and a further three elected by the three Chambers of Commerce. The Council had a majority of unofficial members, including four nominated by the Governor, and was admitted to membership of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1949. By the time of the elections in March 1951, the number of popularly elected members had been increased from six to nine, and the Council elected one of its unofficial members to be its vice-president. The Constitution was further amended to permit the unofficial members of the Legislative Council to elect two of their number on the Executive Council. At the end of 1953 a Commission was appointed by the Governor under the chairmanship of Sir George Rendel, K.C.M.G., to undertake a comprehensive review of the constitution of the Colony, including the relationship between the Colony Government and the local government authority. The Commission reported in February 1954, and recommended the establishment of a Legislative Assembly consisting of a Speaker and 32 Members, of whom 25 should be popularly elected, and a Council of Ministers consisting of 3 *ex officio* Ministers (the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary) and 6 Ministers drawn from the Legislative Assembly. The Secretary of State for the Colonies agreed generally with the recommendations and the result was that a new Order in Council was passed providing for a new constitution for Singapore.

The first general elections for a mainly elected Legislature were held in April 1955. Four political parties and a number of independent candidates contested the seats in the 24 constituencies. Since no party had an overwhelming majority the Labour Front which had the majority of votes as a party went into coalition with the United Malay National Organisation/Malayan Chinese

ssociation/Singapore Malay Union Alliance to form the Government. After coming into office, the Chief Minister, Mr. David Marshall, has continued to make representations for a greater measure of self-government and obtained the Secretary of State's agreement to hold talks on this subject in London in April 1956, i.e. a year after the new Government has come into power.

Keeping pace with the development in central government has been the progress in local government. The first Municipal Elections were held in March 1949, when 18 out of a total 27 Municipal Commissioners were elected by popular vote. In September 1951, the title of a City was conferred by Royal Charter and the Municipal Commission became the City Council. In the rural areas the village committees which came into being in 1946 and 1947 became rural district committees and provided a useful link between the inhabitants and the Rural Board. In 1954 the Constitutional Commission mentioned above recommended the fusion of the City Council and the Rural Board into a single City and Island Council with local government responsibilities throughout the main Island of Singapore—the new Council to consist of 24 popularly elected Councillors, 8 Aldermen elected by the Councillors, and a Mayor elected annually by the Aldermen and Councillors together. However, the new Government were not in favour of the proposed plan for local government and appointed a Commission to report on the feasibility of establishing a City Council with less responsibilities than at present and of several Rural Councils to look after the interests of the rural areas.

This constitutional progress has taken place despite what is known as the Emergency. Early in 1948, the leaders of the Malayan Communist Party decided to switch the main emphasis of their policy from penetrations of workers' movements to a campaign of violence, and in April of that year the campaign opened both in Singapore and the Federation of Malaya, with the result that special emergency powers were taken by the Governments of both territories. Many leaders of the Party in Singapore whose main occupation had been the fomenting of industrial disputes in Singapore went to the Federation to join their comrades in the jungle in the campaign of armed terrorism which still continues. The manifestation of this campaign though not as serious or as spectacular in Singapore as in the Federation included cases of murder and arson, and it has needed constant vigilance and the use of the emergency powers to keep the threat in check, and to disorganise the control centres of the local Communist organisation

as they regrouped from time to time. Fortunately there are signs that the tide has turned and that before long democratic progress can proceed without the restrictions inevitably inherent in the organisation necessary for the combating of a campaign of terrorism.

HISTORICAL NOTE ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Christmas Island was discovered and named by Captain William Mynors of the *Royal Mary* who sighted it on Christmas Day, 1643, while on a voyage from Java to the Cape. The earliest recorded landing is that of a party sent ashore by William Dampier in 1688, but the island remained little known, and was seldom visited, until the latter part of the nineteenth century. The first official attempts at exploration were made by men landed from H.M. ships in 1857 and 1887.

The reports arising from these visits were unpromising, but some of the geological specimens brought back were found to be almost pure samples of phosphate of lime and the British Government was moved to annex the island in June 1888 placing it under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Straits Settlements. Attempts to work the phosphate deposits were made by various individuals including members of the Clunies-Ross family, who had established themselves on the Cocos Islands, and by 1897 the Christmas Island Phosphate Company had been formed.

Extensive work on the opening up of quarries on the north side, near Flying Fish Cove, began early in 1897. The following year 200 Chinese labourers, the fore-runners of a larger labour force, were brought to the island and in 1900 the first consignment of phosphates was put on board ship by means of lighters, and the island's exports began. In the course of time the deposits on the north of the island became exhausted and a railway was built 11 miles across the central plateau to the extensive beds around South Point. Since 1920 only these beds have been used and the phosphate has been carried across the island to the drying and grading factory at Flying Fish Cove where it is loaded aboard ship by conveyor belt. Production continued steadily except during the Japanese occupation of 1942 to 1945. On the 1st January, 1949 the Christmas Island Phosphate Company's undertaking was purchased by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand on whose behalf the Christmas Island Phosphate Commission was established. In recent years production has been about 350,000 tons annually. The population entirely depending on the phosphate was 2,201 in 1955.

HISTORICAL NOTE ON THE COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS

The Cocos-Keeling Islands saw small settlements first founded in 1826 and 1827 by Alexander Hare and John Clunies-Ross. They were formally declared part of the British dominions in 1857 and were administered by the Colonial Office until 1878, by the Government of Ceylon until 1882, and then by the Government of the Straits Settlements in 1882. They were incorporated in the Settlement of Singapore in 1903 but on the 11th November, 1955 were transferred to the Government of Australia.

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INDEX

- Abattoirs, 92
- Accidents:
 - industrial, 6, 41
 - road, 206
 - shipping, 190
- Administration, 252, 255
- Adoption, 144, 153
- Adult education, 115, 224
- After Care Association, 169
- Afro-Asian Conference, 5
- Agriculture, 26, 86-90, 99, 272
 - Division, 54, 87
- Aircraft, 197-202, 214-5
 - registration, 198
- Aircrew, 198
- Airfields, 5, 199
 - Paya Lebar, 5, 9, 69, 199
- Air Force, Malayan
 - Auxiliary, 237
- Air Services, 197, 214
- Air Training Corps, 245
- Aldermen, 252, 289
- Aliens registration, 20-1
- Almoners, hospital, 122
- Ambulance service, 176
- Animals, 90, 166, 275
- Appeal Courts, 152-3, 156-7
- Apprenticeship, 28
- Approved schools, 141-2, 156, 159
- Arbitration, industrial, 34
- Architect, City Council, 61, 104
- Archives, official, 117
- Armed Services (U.K.), 124, 235
 - employment of civilians, 25-6, 32, 36, 104
 - (see also Local Forces, Military Service, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy)
- Art, 257
- Arts Theatre, 1, 2, 261
- Assignee, Official, 55, 154
- Assizes, 157
- Athletics, 265
- Audit Department, 46, 55
- Australia, 73, 91, 93, 97, 116, 274
 - communications with, 183, 197, 201, 210, 290-1
- Automobiles, 25, 50, 60, 63, 64, 74, 204
- Auxiliary Fire Service, 214
- Badminton, 113, 265-6
- Bankruptcy, 154
- Banks and Banking, 71-4, 83
- Basketball, 113, 268
- Beacons, navigational, 189, 193, 200
- Betting tax, 47, 53, 54
- Bibliography, 292
- Bicycles, 75, 205
- Birds of Singapore, 275-6
- Birth rates, 13, 14
- Blind welfare, 142
- Blood transfusion, 119, 124
- Board of Film Censors, 54, 228
- Boats and Boat building, 184, 197
- Borneo, 27, 43, 70, 83
 - communications with, 198, 201, 210, 212
- Botanic Gardens, 55, 279-83
- Boxing, 265
- Boys' clubs and homes, 141, 142
- Brick making, 98
- Bridge building, 170, 180, 204
- British Council, 259
- British Oversea Airways Corp., 197
- British Red Cross Society, 135, 142
- Broadcasting, 113, 216, 220-1, 263
 - Department, 55, 220
 - licences, 221
 - programmes, 221-4
 - schools, 113, 224
 - ships and aircraft, 189, 201
 - wired (rediffusion), 216
- Brunei, 70, 212
- Budget:
 - City Council, 58, 251
 - Government, 45
 - Singapore Improvement Trust, 63

- Building: 103, 170, 180
 industry, 24, 25, 36, 37
 materials, 76, 83, 92, 93, 98
 societies, 104
 survey and control, 61, 100, 104
 Bukit Timah Road, 204
 Bukom, Pulau, 80, 192, 274
 Bunkering, ships, 192
 Burma, 73, 94, 97, 197, 201
 Buses, motor, 25, 204-5
 Bushey Park Home, 141
 Business firms, 183

 Cable and Wireless Ltd., 210
 Cadet Corps, 243-5
 Cambodia, 95
 Cargo and cargo handling:
 air, 199
 rail, 202-3
 sea, 183, 191
 inspection, 191
 Car parks, 101
 Cars, 25, 60, 63-4, 76, 205
 Casualties (see Accidents)
 Cattle, 90-1
 Causeway, 273
 Cement, 76
 Censorship of films, 54, 228
 Census:
 population, 11, 12
 manual workers, 24
 road traffic, 101
 Central Provident Fund, 21, 23, 27,
 42, 212
 Ceylon, 73, 97
 communications with, 188, 201,
 210
 Chambers of Commerce, 83
 Changi Prison, 168-9
 Charitable societies, 134, 141-3,
 187
 Chemistry Department, 54, 90,
 132-3, 164, 191
 Chief:
 Justice, 152, 157
 Minister, 3, 222, 249, 289
 Children's social centres, 143
 (see also juveniles)
 China, 72, 260
 Chinese:
 Secretariat, 55
 Schools, 6, 106-13
 Cholera, 126, 131
 Christian mission hospitals, 121-2
 Christmas Island, 163, 202, 213,
 274, 290
 geography, 86
 history, 287, 290
 population, 13, 15, 290

 Christmas Island Phosphate Co.,
 290
 Cinemas, 227
 City:
 Architect and Building Surveyor,
 170, 181
 Assessor, 61
 Cleansing and Hawker Depart-
 ment, 61, 179
 Council, 3, 94, 168, 170-81, 251
 employment, 26, 30-3, 36-9,
 41-2, 132-3
 finance, 60-1, 108, 121-2, 251
 housing and building, 85,
 104-5, 170, 181
 Engineer, 61, 170, 178
 Health Department, 61, 119-22
 Treasurer, 58, 61
 Vehicles Department, 61, 204
 Veterinary Surgeon, 61, 90
 Civil Aviation, 197-202
 Department, 55, 197
 Civil Defence Corps, 240
 Civil Service (see Public Service)
 Joint Council, 36-7
 Climate, 271
 Clinics, out-patient, 122-32
 Coal, 174, 192
 Coconuts, 89
 estates, 272
 oil milling, 76, 81, 191
 Cocos-Keeling Islands, 274, 291
 geography, 291
 history, 270, 287, 291
 Coinage, 70
 Colombo Plan, 84, 93, 116
 Colonial Development and Wel-
 fare Schemes, 54, 55, 68, 69
 Colonial Office, 86
 Commerce (see Trade), 75-84
 nineteenth century, 287, 290
 Commerce and Industry
 Department, 55, 88, 92
 Commissioner-General in S.-E.
 Asia, 114
 Commonwealth Parliamentary
 Association, 288
 Communications, 183-215
 Communist activities, 1, 6, 8, 110,
 194, 289
 Community centres, 143
 Companies, 48, 83, 154
 Compensation industrial injuries,
 23, 34, 39, 40
 Conferences, international, 5, 10,
 84, 217
 Consolidated Rate Fund (City
 Council), 58, 60-1, 122, 175

- Instabulatory, Special and Volunteer, 165, 166
(see also Police)
- Instituencies, electoral, 2, 247, 288
- stitution, political, 1-4, 7, 217, 247-8, 288
- onstruction (building) industry, 25, 26, 36
(see also Housing)
- ontraband seizures, 167
- onvict Prison, 168
- o-operative Societies, 55, 98, 99
- opra, 76, 81
- Coroner, 15, 158
- Corruption, 162
- Cost of living, 33, 34
- Cottage Industries, 98
- Council of Ministers, 4, 288
- Courts, 152-3, 156-9
 - Industrial, 34
 - Marine, 190
- Crime, 161-4
 - political, 1, 6, 8, 110, 194, 289
- Criminal Investigation Department (Police), 164
- Crippled Children's Home, 142
- Currency, 70
- Custodian of Enemy Property, 155-6
- Customs:
 - Department, 19, 52, 55, 162, 166
 - duties, 47, 50, 51, 54, 167
- Dancing, 261-2
- Dangerous:
 - trades and cargoes, 176, 191
 - drugs, 132-3, 159, 162, 167
- Death rates, 15-6, 128-30
- Debt, public, 46-7, 56-7
- Defence Forces, 229 (see also Armed Services)
- Dentists, 120-1, 123
- Detention under Emergency Regulations, 168
- Development Fund, 56-7
- Diagnostic Survey, 101-2
- Disabled persons, 30, 41, 136
- Disease, incidence, 119, 131
- Disputes, industrial, 5, 6, 37, 38
- Distributive trades, 26, 82
(see also Retail and Wholesale)
- District Committees, Rural, 252
- District Councils, 252
- District Courts, 152-3, 156
- Divisions (electoral), 247-8
- Divorce, 153
- Dockyards, 25, 28, 66-7, 195-6
- Doctors, 120-3
- Dollar exchange rates, 70, 73
- Drainage, 176
- Drama (see Entertainment)
- Dredging, 176, 193
- Driving licences (motor), 208
- Drugs, 132-3, 159, 162-3, 166-7
- Drydocks, 67-9, 195-9
- Duties:
 - customs, 47, 50-1, 166-7
 - others, 47, 49, 52-3
- East India Company, 85
- Education, 9, 10, 33, 44, 106-18, 224
 - adult, 115, 224
 - Committee, 106
 - Department, 106, 108
 - finance, 44, 54, 58, 106, 108
 - medical subjects, 114, 120-1
 - overseas, 116
 - rate (taxation), 106
 - Ten-Year Plan, 108, 111
- Elections, 1-3, 216, 247, 288
 - Divisions, 247-8
- Electricity:
 - Department (City Council), 59-61, 173
 - Department (Harbour Board), 67, 197
 - power stations, 172
- Emergency, 1, 6, 110, 194
- Employers' trade unions, 36
- Employment, 8, 9
 - agricultural, 26
 - Armed Services, 25, 30, 104
 - City Council, 26, 30, 37, 41, 132
 - exchange, 27-8
 - Government Service, 25-6, 27, 41, 216-20
 - industrial, 18, 24-33, 185-7
 - Singapore Harbour Board, 26-7, 41, 66, 104
 - women and juveniles, 28, 41
- Enemy property, 155
- Engineer, City, 61, 170, 178
- Engineering industry, 25
- Engineer Officers (ships), 187
- English Language, 21, 106, 109
- Entertainments:
 - duty, 47, 49-50, 54
 - industry, 28-9
- Entrepôt trade (see Trade)
- Epidemic disease, 119, 129
- Estates:
 - rubber and coconut, 89, 272
 - deceased persons, 48, 53-4, 155
 - Department (City Council), 61

- Estimates, Committee, 46
- Exchange :
 - Banks Association, 71-4
 - Control, 55, 82
 - rates, Malayan currency, 70, 73
- Excise Duties, 51, 167
- Executive Council (see also Governor in Council)
- Exhibitions, 143, 219, 263
- Expenditure, Government (see Finance)
- Exports, 75-83, 92, 95, 191-3
(see also under the names of commodities)
- Factories, 1-4, 8, 39, 40
- Faculties of University, 113
- Fauna of Singapore, 274-7
- Federation of Malaya, 21, 43
 - communications, 185, 188, 202, 209, 212
 - joint activities, 49, 70, 82, 90, 113
 - migration, 12, 17-20
 - trade with, 78, 92, 95, 97
- Female Prisons, 168
- Films, 227-8
 - censorship, 55, 228
- Finance :
 - City Council, 58-62
 - education, 55, 58, 108
 - electricity supply, 59, 60, 173
 - fire services, 59, 61, 65, 174
 - gas supply, 59, 60, 61, 174
 - Government, 43-57, 63
 - Harbour Board, 66-9, 104
 - Housing, 57, 63
 - medical services, 55, 61
 - public works, 55, 65, 91, 121-2, 181
 - roads, 61, 204
 - Rural Board, 63-5, 204
 - telecommunications, 43, 208
 - water supply, 59, 65, 170-2
- Finance Committee, 46
- Financial Secretary, 45, 53, 70
- Fire :
 - Brigades, 59, 61, 65-6, 175-6
 - Outbreaks, 176, 190
 - Service, Auxiliary, 200
- Fish and Fisheries, 55, 69, 93-6
- Flats (see Housing)
- Flight Information Region, 200
- Floods and Flood alleviation, 134, 176-7
- Flora of Singapore, 278-83
- Flower shows, 282
- Flying Club, Royal Singapore, 245
- Food :
 - prices, 33-4, 79-81, 95
 - supply, 76, 79-81, 93-4
- Football, 113, 268
- Foreign Exchange Control, 55
- Forests and forestry, 55, 86, 92, 271, 278-9
- France, 78
- Franchise, 20-1, 249
- Free Legal Aid, 158
- Freight conferences, 185
- Fruit, 79, 82
- Fuel (see Coal, Petroleum)
- Funds :
 - Common (estates administration), 155
 - Development, 56-7
 - Fisheries Loans, 96
 - Mercantile Marine, 56, 187
 - Provident, 21, 27, 212
 - Silver Jubilee, 138
 - Special Reserve, 56-7
 - War Damage, 155
 - War Distress, 139
 - War Risks Insurance, 56
- Games and Sports, 113, 265-9
- Gangs, criminal, 161
- Garbage disposal, 178
- Gardens, Botanic, 55, 275, 279-83
- Gas (lighting and heating), 59-61, 174-5
- Gazette, Government, 292
- General Hospital, 122-3
 - Improvement Plan, 101
 - Post Office, 212
- Geographical features of Singapore, 270-4
- Germany, 78, 155
- Gimson School for Boys, 141
- Girls Homes, 141, 144
- Government of Singapore, 1-4, 247
- Government Service (see Public Service)
- Governor, 1, 247
- Governor in Council, 247, 251, 288
- Granite, 98
- Grants-in-aid to schools, 106, 108-9
- Graving docks, 67, 69, 195
- Handicrafts, 98
- Harbour, 183, 191-7
- Harbour Board (see Singapore Harbour Board)
- Hawkers, 94, 179-80

- Health**, 9, 119, 122, 128, 132
High Court, 152-3, 156
History:
 Christmas Island, 287, 290
 Cocos-Keeling Islands, 287, 291
 Singapore, 17, 20, 85-6, 134, 270, 284-90
Hockey, 268-9
Holidays in industry, 32-3
Holland, 78, 284-5
Homes:
 welfare, 141
 seafarers, 187
Hong Kong, 19, 72-3, 82, 94, 97, 188, 265
 communications with, 197
Horticulture, 143, 279
Hospital Reserve, 242-3
Hospitals, 119, 122-8
 patients, 119, 123-8
Hotels, 20
Hours of work in industry, 32-3
House of Parliament, 2.
Housing, 41, 122
 construction, 59, 61, 102, 165, 181
 finance, 57, 59, 63, 102-4
 rents, 33, 102-5
Identity Cards, 2, 20, 216, 218
Immigration, 17-9, 23, 27, 55
Imports and Exports, 76-83, 92, 95, 191
 (see also under the names of commodities)
Import and Export Control Division, 55, 82
Imprisonment, 146-7, 156, 159
Improvement:
 Plan (Town Planning), 101.
 Rate (taxation), 58, 63, 100
 Trust (see Singapore Improvement Trust)
Income Tax, 47, 49, 54-5
India, 228, 284-5
 communications with, 188, 197, 210
Indo-China, 188, 201
Indonesia:
 communications with, 184, 188, 197, 210, 212
 trade with, 5, 75, 81, 91, 95
Industrial:
 accidents, 41
 classification, 26
 Court, 34
 development, 96-8, 102
 disputes, 5-6, 9, 37, 217
 employment, 96-8
 training, 28-9, 106, 115, 187
 Infantile paralysis, 129-32
 Infant mortality, 16, 128-9
 Infectious diseases, 119, 129-32
 hospital, 122-3
 Information services, Government, 216-20
 Inheritance, Chinese, 15
 Injuries, compensation, 40
 Inquests, 158
 Institutions:
 charitable and welfare, 134, 141-2, 187
 educational, 28-9, 107, 108, 113, 187, 262
 medical, 122-3
 Insurance companies, 56, 83
 Interest rates, 47, 57, 74
 International:
 Civil Aviation Organization, 198
 conferences, 84
 Labour Organisation, 30
 Island Players, 261
 Italy, trade with, 78
Jalan Besar Stadium, 266
Japan, 155, 287
 trade, 78, 82
Japanese occupation, 18, 102, 119, 174, 287, 290
Johore Straits, 193, 286
Joint consultation (industrial relations), 36
Journal, 219
Judges, 152, 156
Judicial Department, 152
Juvenile Court, 141, 156, 159
Juveniles:
 delinquency, 141-2, 156, 159
 employment, 28-9, 150
 ill-treatment, 41, 144
Kallang:
 Airport, 101, 199, 200
 Basin, 101
Kandang Kerbau Hospital, 124-5
Keppel Harbour, 183, 193-4
Kindergarten schools, 111
King Edward VII College of Medicine, 114
Korea, 98
Kwong Wai Siu Free Hospital, 123
Labour (see Employment, Industry):
 Department, 23-39, 55
 Exchange, 27-8
 Party, 3, 8, 249
 Labour Advisory Board, 24

- Labuan, 72, 288
- Land use, 85-8, 98
 - Office, 55, 87
- Languages of Singapore, 1, 21, 106, 216, 221, 227, 249
- Law Courts, 152-3, 156-8
- Laws of Singapore, 292 (see also Ordinances)
- Legal aid, 158
- Legislation (see Ordinances), 145, 292
- Legislative:
 - Assembly, 4, 46, 288
 - Council, 1, 2, 247, 288
 - Ministers, 4, 217, 249-51, 288
- Leprosy Hospital, 123, 126
- Libraries, 55, 115, 117-8, 143
- Licensing:
 - aircrews, 198
 - child actors, 28
 - imports and exports, 82
 - motor vehicles, 205-6
 - motor vehicle drivers, 27, 208
 - seamen, 186-7
 - wireless receivers, 221
- Lifeboatmen, 187
- Lighters and Lighterage, 25, 183, 191-7
- Lighthouses, 189
- Lighting, streets, 65, 173-4
- Liquidation of companies, 154
- Liquors, 48, 50-1, 54, 97, 133, 166-7
- Litigation, 152-3
- Little Sisters of the Poor, 142
- Loans:
 - City Council, 57, 59, 251
 - Fishery, 96
 - Government, 47, 56
 - Harbour Board, 57
 - Improvement Trust, 57, 103
 - Interest rates, 47, 57, 74
 - Private, 99, 104
- Local Authorities (see City Council, Rural Board)
- Local Forces, 229 (see also Armed Services, Police Force)
- Lodging Houses, 20
- Lotteries, 53
- Machinery, 39, 40, 82
- Magistrates, 156
- Mails (postal), 200, 212-5
- Malacca, 72, 221, 285, 287
- Malaria, 130, 132
- Malay Settlement, 87
- Malaya (see Federation of Malaya)
- Malaya and British Borneo
 - Currency Commissioners, 70
 - Malaya War Distress (Singapore) Fund, 139
- Malayan:
 - Air Training Corps, 245
 - Airways Ltd., 197
 - Auxiliary Air Force, 237
 - Board of Income Tax, 49
 - Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, 118
 - Communist Party, 231-2, 289
 - Exchange Banks Association, 71-4
 - Nature Society, 118
 - Railway, 202
 - Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, 232
 - Stevedoring and Transportation Co. Union, 288
- Malayanisation, 7, 224, 255
- Manufacturing industry, 96-8
 - employment in, 25-90, 185
- Marine: 183-97, 230-3
 - Department, 55, 183, 189
 - Police, 163, 193
 - Surveys Department, 55, 187
- Markets and marketing, 82, 90, 94, 103
- Marriage registration, 14, 55
- Master Attendant, 55, 184-6, 189-90
- Master Plan (town planning), 101
- Maternity mortality, 128
- Maternity benefits, female workers, 42
- Maternity services, 124, 127-8
- Mayor, 252, 289
- Medical:
 - Council, 120
 - Education, 113-4, 120-1
 - Finance, 47, 55, 61, 122
 - Health Department, 55, 119, 165
 - Services, 119, 195
- Medicine, King Edward VII College, 120-1
- Mental diseases and institutions, 121, 123, 125
- Mercantile Marine Fund, 187
- Merchant Shipping, 183-91
- Meteorological Service, 55, 189, 201-2
- Middle Road Hospital, 126
- Middleton Hospital, 126
- Midwifery services, 121, 128
- Midwives, 121
- Migration, 17, 23, 27, 290
- Military Forces, 233 (see Armed Services and Local Forces)
- Military Service (compulsory), 236

- Milk, 76
 Mining, 98
 Ministers, 3, 4, 217, 249-51, 288
 Money, 70
 Mortality rates, 15-6, 128-9
 Mortgage societies, 104
 Mosquito control, 129, 132-3
 Motor vehicles, 25, 50, 60, 63-4, 76, 82, 204
 Mountbatten, Earl, 287
 Mount Emily Girls' Home, 141
 Museum, Raffles, 55, 117
 Music, 225, 257
 Society, Singapore, 258

 Nantina Home, 141
 Narcotics, 159, 162
 National Registration Identity Cards, 2, 20, 216
 National Service, 236
 Nationality of the population, 20-1
 Natural history of Singapore, 284
 Naturalisation, 20
 Nature Reserves, 85, 278
 Nautical School, 187
 Naval Base, 197
 Navigational aids, 189, 201
 Navy (see Royal Navy, Royal Malayan Navy, Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve)
 New Market Children's Home, 141
 Newspapers, 218-9
 New Zealand, 73, 93, 155
 Nurses, 120-1
 Nutrition, 133

 Occupations (see employment)
 Official Assignee, 55, 154
 Official Receiver, 154
 Olympic Games, 266
 Omnibuses, 25, 204
 Opium, 162, 166-7
 Treatment Centre, 127, 139, 162, 169
 Orchestras, 224, 259
 Orchids, 281-2
 Orders in Council, Colony, 248
 Ordinances, 145, 292
 Organisation and Methods, 256
 Oriental Telephone & Electric Co., 43, 209
 Orphans and orphanages, 141
 Orthopædic hospitals, 123
 Overtime pay, 30

 Painting, 262.
 Pakistan, trade, 73, 82

 Parties (political), 3, 8, 160, 288
 Pan-American Airways, 197
 Passengers, 191, 200, 203
 Patents, 83
 Patients in hospitals, etc., 119, 123-8
 Paya Lebar Airport, 5, 9, 109, 199, 213-4
 Penang, 72, 284, 287
 Pensions, 55
 Pepper, 76, 81, 88, 272
 Perak House, 141
 Permanent Secretaries, 251
 Petroleum:
 duty, 48, 50, 54
 inspection, 191
 trade, 80, 191
 Pharmacists, 114, 121
 Philippines, 197, 201
 Phosphate Commission (Christmas Island), 202, 290
 Photography, 263
 Physical education, 113
 Pilgrimage to Mecca, 185
 Pilots:
 aircraft, 198
 ships, 189
 Pineapples, 76, 88-9, 97
 Plague, 119, 131
 Plantations, rubber and coconut, 88, 272, 279
 Poison, 132-3, 147
 Police Courts, 156-8
 Police Force, 6, 8, 55, 123, 144, 161, 163-6, 229
 Marine, 19, 163, 193
 Radio Division, 163, 175
 Singapore Harbour Board, 192
 Special Constabulary, 56, 165
 Stations, 12, 163
 Traffic, 206-7
 Poliomyelitis, 130-1
 Political parties, 3, 160, 288
 Polytechnic, 115
 Poor man's lawyer, 158
 Population, 11, 285-6
 Port, 132, 191-7
 Postal Services, 54-5, 200, 212-5
 Post Office Savings Bank, 72
 Poultry farming, 90
 Power stations, 59, 172-3
 President, City Council, 61
 Press, 2, 216
 Preventive Branch (Customs), 166
 Prices:
 Food, 33-4, 95
 Rubber, 75, 77, 89
 Tin, 75, 78

- Primary schools (see schools), 107-8
- Printing, 25, 220
Government, 55, 220, 292
- Prisons, 55, 123, 168
- Probate and administration, 153, 155
- Probation service, 156
- Production, 85
- Prostitution, 143-4
- Provident Funds, 21, 23, 27, 212
- Public:
Assistance (unemployment, etc.), 136
Debt, 46, 56-7
Health, 9, 39, 55, 61, 65, 119, 122, 132
Finance, 43
Relations Department, 55, 216-20
Service, 2, 7, 24, 26, 28-9, 41, 65, 252-6
Services Commission, 55, 253
Trustee, 55, 154
Works Department, 55, 104, 109, 124, 170, 176, 180, 193
Utilities, 25, 170
- Publications, Government, 218, 292
- Publicity, 216
- Pulau (=island)
Brani, 78, 98, 274
Bukom, 80, 191, 274
Sebarok, 80, 191, 193
Tekong, 273
Ubin, 98, 273, 276
- Punishment of crime, 147, 156-8
- Qantas Empire Airways, 197
- Quarantine, 122, 132, 197
- Quarrying, 26, 36, 98, 290
- Quays and wharves, 67, 183, 192-3
- Queen's:
Dock, 67, 195
Scholarships, 116
- Queenstown, 103, 175
- Races of Singapore, 11, 114
- Radio:
Aircraft and ships, 189, 201
Facsimile, 209-11
- Radio Malaya, 113, 216, 220-6, 263
- Radio Police, 163, 211
- Raffles, 284
College, 114
- Museum and Library, 55, 117, 143
- Raffles, Sir T. S., 284
- Railways, 202-4, 270, 273
- Rainfall, 271
- Ramakrishna Mission Home, 142
- Ranikhet, 91
- Rates (see also Taxation):
City Council, general purpose, 58, 60, 251
Education, 58, 108
Electricity, 173
Gas, 174
Improvement, 66
Water, 172
Rural Board, 63
- Receiver, Official, 154
- Red Cross Society, 135, 142
- Rediffusion, 226-7
- Refuse disposal, 178
- Religious, 14, 21
- Remand Prison, 168
- Rendel, Sir George, 247
- Rents, 33, 54, 103
- Representative in London, Malayan, 84
- Research, 118, 135
Agricultural, 90
Fisheries, 69, 96
Medical, 133
Meteorological, 202
- Reserve Unit (Police), 165-6
- Retail:
Prices, 33-4, 95
Shops, 27, 33, 41, 82, 94
- Revenue, 54, 56, 64, 67 (see Duties, Finance)
- Revenue Branch (Customs), 50
- Rice, 34, 76, 80
- Ridley, Mr. H. N., 222, 280, 283
- Roads, 9, 101, 170, 204
Finance, 9, 55, 59, 65, 204-5
- Roman Catholic children's homes, 142
- Rope, 82
- Royal:
Air Force, 25, 237, 245, 273
Asiatic Society, Malayan Branch, 118
Malayan Navy, 230
Navy, 184, 230, 232
Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Clinic, 123, 130, 138
- Rubber:
Estates, 89, 272
Milling and manufactures, 25
Price, 47, 77
Trade, 76, 77, 82, 286

- Rugby football, 267
- Rural Board, 143, 252
 - Finance, 63-5
 - Housing control, 74, 104
 - Medical services, 65, 120, 132
 - Roads, 204
 - Utilities, 171, 175
- Rural District Committees, 252
- Safety :
 - Aircraft, 200
 - factories, 39
 - Roads and vehicles, 204
 - Ships, 187
- St. Andrew's Mission Hospital, 123
- St. James' Power Station, 172
- St. John's Island, 162, 195
- St. Joseph's Trade School, 142
- Salvage of Ships, 190
- Salvation Army, 142
- Sanitation, 132, 172, 177
- Sarawak, 27, 70, 212
- Savings Bank, Post Office, 72
- Sawmills, 92-3
- Scholarships, Government, 116, 253
- School Cadet Corps, 243-4
- Schools, 28-9, 107-11
 - Broadcasting, 113, 225
 - Medical services, 123, 127, 131
 - Teachers, 112
- Sea Cadet Corps, 243-4
- Seamen, 185-6
- Sea sports, 266
- Sebarok Pulau, 80, 191, 193
- Secret societies, 161, 164
- Self-government, 1
- Seventh Day Adventist's Hospital, 123
- Sewerage, 59, 177-8
- Sheep, 90-2
- Shipping, 183-91
 - Office, 186
 - services, 185
- Ships, 184
 - Articles, 186
 - Building, 195
 - Bunkers and store, 192
 - Radio, 187
 - Survey and safety, 187
- Siam (see Thailand)
- Silver Jubilee Fund, 138
- Simla Rules (Shipping), 188
- Singapore :
 - Anti-Tuberculosis Association, 123, 130, 138
 - Art Society, 257
 - Badminton Association, 266
 - Chamber Ensemble, 259
 - Gardening Society, 282
 - Hospital Reserve, 242
 - Mercantile Marine Fund, 56, 187
 - Olympic and Sports Council, 266
 - Youth Sports Centre, 266
 - Music Society, 258
 - River, 101, 183
 - Telephone Board, 209
 - Volunteer Corps, 233
 - Youth Council, 142
 - Singapore Harbour Board, 6, 183, 192
 - Employment, 26, 28-9, 32, 41, 66, 104
 - Finance, 66, 104
 - Reserve, 239
 - Singapore Improvement Trust, 9, 85, 101-3, 123
 - Employment, 26, 28-9
 - Finance, 57, 63, 102
 - Singing, 259
 - Small-pox, 119, 126, 131
 - Smuggling, 162, 166
 - Snakes, 276
 - Social Welfare Department, 9, 55, 134, 156
 - Societies :
 - Charitable, 134, 141, 142, 187
 - Co-operative, 55, 98
 - Secret, 161, 164
 - Speaker of the Legislature, 2, 247, 288
 - Special Constabulary, 6, 165
 - Spices, 76, 81
 - Sport, 113, 265
 - Stadium, Jalan Besar, 266
 - Stage Club, 261
 - Stamp duties, 53
 - Stamps, postal, 214
 - Statistics Department, 55
 - Stevedoring, 25, 192
 - "Straits Chinese", 20
 - Straits of Johore, 270, 273
 - Straits Settlements, 43, 188, 220, 285
 - Straits Steamship Company, 185
 - Street (see Roads) :
 - Cleaning, 178-9
 - Hawkers, 94, 179
 - Lighting, 173-4
 - Strikes, 6, 9, 37
 - Student enrolment in schools, 22, 107-11, 114

- Suez Canal, 183
- Sugar, 34, 76
- Supreme Court, 152
- Survey:
 - Aircraft, 202
 - Buildings, 104
 - Land, 55, 87, 101
 - Ships, 187
- Sweepstakes duty, 47, 53-4
- Swimming, 266
- Swine, 90
- Tan Tock Seng Hospital, 122, 125, 130
- Tariffs Customs, 47, 50, 51, 54
- Taxation, 47 (see Duties, Finance)
- Taxis, 205
- Teachers, 112
- Tebrau River (water supply), 171
- Tekong, Pulau, 273
- Telecommunications Department, 55, 189, 201, 208
- Telegraphs, 209-10
- Telephone service, 209
- Temperature day and night, 270
- Tennis, 266
- Ten-Year Plan:
 - Education, 108
 - Medical, 122
- Textiles:
 - Industry, 33, 98
 - Trade, 76, 82
- Thailand:
 - Communications, 188, 197, 201, 212
 - Trade, 76, 95
- Theatres, 260
- Thomas Cup (badminton), 265
- Timber trade, 92
- Tin, 76, 78, 97, 286
 - Price, 75, 78
- Tobacco, 48, 50-2, 54, 89, 167
- Totalisator betting duty, 47, 53
- Tourist information, 220
- Town and country planning, 100
- Town cleansing, 178
- Trade, 8, 75
 - Distributive, 8, 83, 94
 - Commissioner, 84
 - Marks, 55, 83
 - Unions, 35
- Trafalgar Home, 141
- Traffic:
 - Air, 198
 - Roads, 101, 159, 204
- Traffic Department (Harbour Board), 67
- Traffic Police, 206-8
- Training:
 - Industry, 28-9, 115, 187
 - Public Service, 112, 115, 120-1, 165, 253-4
- Transferred children, 143-4
- Transport, 183 (see Civil Aviation, Railways, Roads, Shipping)
 - Industry, 25, 36, 192
- Travelling dispensaries, 123
- Treasury:
 - City Council, 58, 61
 - Government (Accountant-General), 55
- Trolley Buses, 25, 205
- Trustee, public, 55, 154
- Tuberculosis, 123, 125, 130, 138
- Turf Club, 53
- Ubin, Pulau, 98, 273, 276
- Unemployment relief, 136-8
- United Kingdom, 9, 20, 49, 116
 - (see Armed Services)
 - Communications with, 191, 197, 210
 - Trade, 73, 78, 93, 97
- United States of America, 116, 218
 - Communications with, 183, 197
 - Rubber Trade, 73, 77-8
- University of Malaya, 113, 121
- Urban Health Centre, 128
- Utilities, public, 25, 170
- Vaccination, 131
- Vagrants, 168
- Vegetables, 86, 89, 272, 279
- Vehicles (see Motor vehicles)
- Venereal disease hospital, 126
- Vernacular schools, 6, 106-11
- Veterinary:
 - Division, 55, 90
 - Surgeon (City Council), 61, 90
- Victoria Memorial Hall and Theatre, 61, 261
- Visitors, 5
- Volunteer:
 - Corps, Singapore, 233
 - Special Constabulary, 165
- Wages, 9, 30-1
 - Council, 34
- War:
 - damage, 155
 - Distress Fund, 139
- Warehouses, Harbour Board, 183, 192

Water :

Department (City Council), 59,
60-1, 170

Rates, 33, 172

Supply, 65, 132, 170

Weather, 271

Weights and measures, 34, 51-2,
86

Welfare :

Services, 9, 134

Industrial, 9, 39-41

Seafarers, 187

Wharves and quays, 62, 183,
191-3

Wheat, 76

Whitley Councils, 36

Wholesale :

Marketing, 82, 90, 94

Prices, 77-81, 95

Wireless (see Broadcasting)

Women :

Employment in industry, 24-6,
28-9

and girls protection, 143-4

Woodbridge Hospital, 121, 123,
125

Workmen's compensation, 40

Workshops, motor vehicle, 25

World Bank Mission, 8

World Health Organisation, 120,
131

Wrecks, 190

X-Ray Services, 130-1

York Hill Girls' Homecraft Cen-
tre, 141

Young persons (see juveniles), 28

Youth organisations, 142-3

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